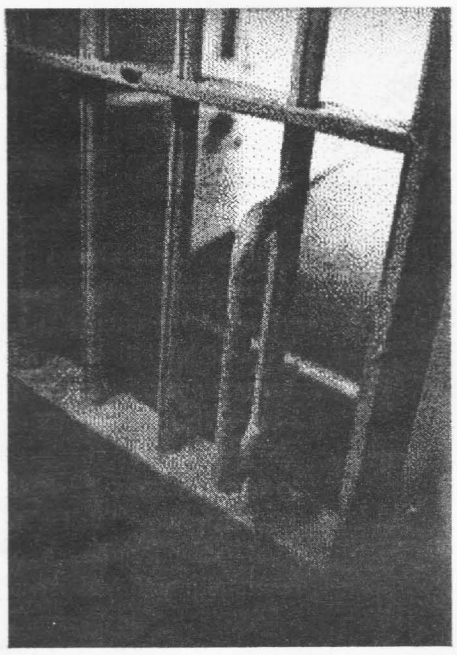
WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 13 — THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION — MAY 2004

Vote "NO" by May 18 in the county wide mail-only election

By Glen Anderson



Should Thurston County taxpayers spend $100 million to build Phase I (the first 640 beds) of a proposed 1,200-bed jail? Or are there better ways to address crowding, and related health and safety issues at the current jail?

The county wants to go $88 million into debt and raise property taxes for 20 years to pay off the debt. For a typical $170,000 house in Thurston County, the increase will be $87 per year for 20 years.

This affects renters too, because landlords pass higher costs on to the tenants.

A special county-wide election is being conducted now. Ballots must be postmarked by May 18.

Everyone wants to reduce crowding at the jail. The question is how to do it. Should we keep building bigger and bigger jails, or should we pursue more cost-effective and humane solutions — alternatives that would really solve the problems?

Projected costs are unsustainable

In a recent ten-year period Thurston County's population increased 28% while our jail population increased 109% - almost four times as fast. This is not sustainable! We can't build our way of this problem. We need better solutions.

The $88 million bond issue would pay for construction only. Operating a much bigger jail will also cost more every year. The county's criminal justice system already consumes 76% of the county's general funds budget. Where will the extra funds come from? Raising taxes even further? Cutting county services?

An expensive jail would consume the money we need for real solutions. New and expanded programs could reduce jail population and save taxpayers money – but only if we fund them as our first priority instead of squandering the money on a gigantic new jail.

This would be the biggest bond issue in Thurston County history. It would burden taxpayers for the next 20 years. Would taxpayers feel overloaded and start voting against schools, parks, buses, libraries and other needs?

Overcrowding? Let's think, not just react.

Nobody wants overcrowding at the jail. The real question is how best to avoid it. Continually building bigger and bigger jails is "tunnel vision."

Jails are like closets: the more space you have, the more you'll keep filling it up.

The county admits that the new jail will be 93-100% full on the day it opens. Phase II will have to start almost immediately with additional costs, and then Phase III.

Actually, the jail is not really as overcrowded as the county says it is. Their "average daily population" (ADP) statistic includes everyone under this jail's jurisdiction, whether or not they occupy beds in our jail. ADP includes people on work release and electronic home monitoring, and those who are housed at Western State Hospital and in cells we rent in Yakima.

Choose humane, cost-effective alternatives

Years of "tough on crime" politics have wasted huge amounts of tax dollars on the county seat, Olympia. Now the county is pushing ahead with the jail in Tumwater separated from the court in Olympia, even though this will waste a lot of money and staff time transporting inmates back and forth between the court and the jail. This violates the original vision of co-locating the courts and jail, so they're building operational inefficiency into this new jail.

The county used a narrow, top-down approach in developing these proposals. County and city governments did not consult enough with professionals in fields of mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, etc., let alone the broad spectrum of the general public.

Many of the problems are interrelated. We need to address them in a "whole systems" way and consider public safety, public health, economic justice, low-income transitional housing, "quality of

(continues on page 7)

Poisoning Capitol Lake:
A malicious attempt to deceive the public

by David Lavender

In September of 2001, Eurasion milfoil was discovered in Capitol Lake. Milfoil has a history in freshwater systems of pushing out native plants and becoming the dominant species.

Since the early 20th century, politicians on Olympia's Capitol Hill have not wanted to see the mud that occurs daily with low tides. Hence, Capitol Lake was designed and formed in the 1950's by damming and dredging the Deschutes River estuary as an "attractive" alternative to the bay. Since a certain look is the point of the lake, having milfoil take over did not sit well with the current politicians on the hill.

There are also those in the Department of Ecology who feel the Eurasian milfoil is a threat to the plants and critters now occupying this freshwater habitat that has been created. David Schilperoort, of the Washington State Department of General Administration (GA), who manages numerous state owned properties including Capitol Lake, applied for a grant to deal with the milfoil. The Department of Ecology granted GA

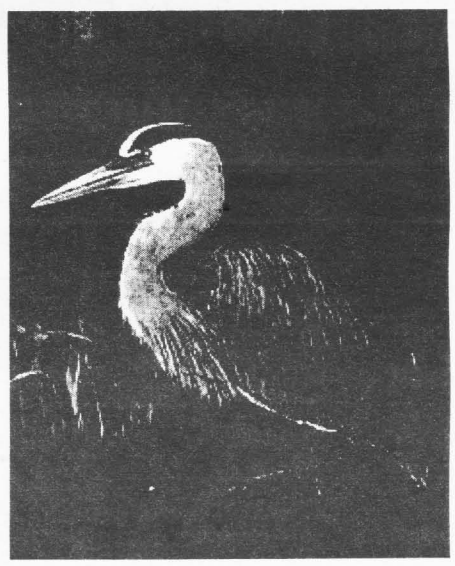
Not only does the chemical triclopyr break down into extremely dangerous compounds, but the inert ingredients are hazardous as well.

$50,000, and in turn GA hired the firm AquaTechnex to solve the milfoil problem. AquaTechnex is a corporation dealing with "lake and aquatic life management", their slogan being "Advancing the science of lake management".

In the summer of 2002, an attempt was made to remove the milfoil by lowering the water level of the lake and pulling up the weeds by hand. This failed "due to the inability to control the lake levels and totally dewater the lake" according to the GA. By that autumn an herbicide Sonar (with the active ingredient being Fluridone) was being considered as a way to kill the milfoil.

Now at this point, the Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan (CLAMP) committee decides to do more research on the milfoil impacts on the lake and how fast it will spread, what native plants are in the lake, and an inventory of the critters there as well. CLAMP is made up of a representative from the cities of Tumwater and Olympia, Thurston County, Port of Olympia, Squaxin Island Tribe, and the Washington State Departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Ecology, and General Administration. They serve as an advisory role to David Schilperoort on how to manage Capital Lake.

Two more chemicals were proposed to CLAMP by Terry McNabb (president of AquaTechnex): 2,4-D and triclopyr. After research was completed, CLAMP decided on two options: do nothing or use the chemical triclopyr. Meetings were held on triclopyr, to provide more information on the chemical. I attended a meeting on April 14th; the following information is from handouts at that



meeting, participants at the meeting, and my own research into triclopyr.

Triclopyr is an herbicide that affects broadleaf plants. Products that contain triclopyr include Garlon, Turflon, Pathfinder, Access, Brush-B-Gon, Confront, and Crossbow. There are two forms of triclopyr, but this article will focus on the triethylamine salt version that is being proposed for use in Capitol Lake. What the state wants to buy is a new product called Renovate, which is actually the exact chemical composition (i.e. the same) as Garlon 3A. Since Renovate is a recent name, most test results and

(continues on page 9)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

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The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Announcements, etc.

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the video camera as machete:

zapatistas indigenous autonomy, resistance & self-representation through media in chiapas, Mexico

Presented by ALEX HALKIN, Chiapas media project founding director and Guggenheim Fellowship recipient.

Wednesday, May 5TH, 2004:

- 7 PM Traditions Fair Trade Café, 300 5th Ave and Water St.

Thursday, May 6TH, 2004:

- NOON-2 PM, The Evergreen State College LIB LOBBY

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New videos by Zapatistas Indigenous video makers

* Water and Autonomy
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For further information, please call Alex at 773-583-7728 or e-mail us at

cmp@chiapasmediaproject.org.

In Olympia local information call 867-6055.

MAY DAY Potluck

Saturday, May 1, 2004 at the Labor Temple above the Brotherhood on Capitol Blvd.

5:00-6:00pm potluck

6:00-8:00pm Labor and Peace Forum

Speakers:

Sarah Ryan – TESC Labor Center,

Scott Sullivan – Darigold

Alice Zillah – WA State employee

Larry Mosqueda – TESC Professor/ OMJP

Others tentatively from Grocery Workers

FREE EVENT

Sponsored by the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace

www.omjp.org

Call 867-6513 for more info.

David Rovics Concert: Benefit for Rafah Sister City Project

David is a very prolific political folksinger and songwriter. He has been touring the country and interntionally using his music as a tool to support social movements. He is releasing his 11th recording titled "Songs for Mahmud".

Part of the proceeds are a benefit for the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project.

When: Tuesday May 18th at 7.00 p.m.

Where: Traditions Cafe

Cost: $10 ($5 students and low income)

For more info call 867-5230 or write at s.sharoni@comcast.net

Visit David's website at www.davidrovics.som

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, May 21st

Proofreading Meeting:

Call 956 1168 for more info

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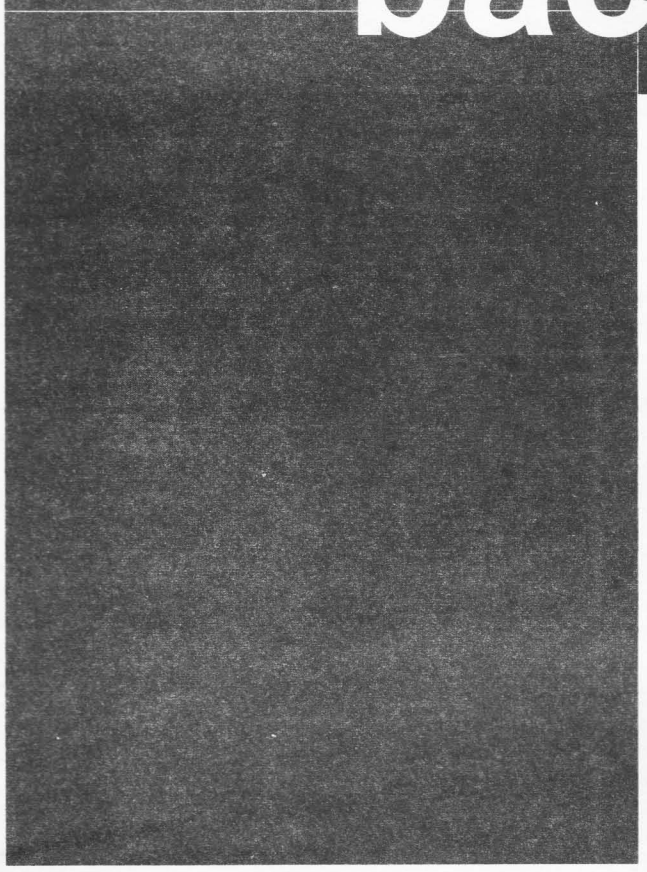
MAY 2004

When words come back to haunt



Once you've got Baghdad, it's not clear what you do with it. It's not clear what kind of government you would put in place of the one that's currently there...How much credibility is the government going to have if it's set up by the United States military when it's there?...I think to have the American military forces engaged in a civil war inside Iraq would fit the definition of quagmire, and we have absolutely no desire to get bogged down in that fashion.

Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense, 1991
Persian Gulf War

Source: editorial, *The Nation*, 26 April 2004

Liberty has never come from the government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of government. The history of liberty is the history of resistance. The history of liberty is a history of the limitation of governmental power, not the increase of it. Woodrow Wilson

1
2003: Study reveals diesel, gas vapors, smoke from burning sources of air pollution in South Sound

2
2003: Rick Neuheisel highest paid st worker

2003: Striking Nige-

3
rian oil workers release 100s of hostages

2002: Temp order bars Makah from

4
whaling

2003: Bush claims it's only "a matter of time" until WMDs

5
are found

1961: Freedom Riders start trip through South

6
2003: Powell, Rumsfeld warn Syria US will be watching

1925: Teacher John T

7
Scopes is arrested

2003: Transcripts of closed-door McCarthy hearings

8
are released

1996: Thurston Co residents begin recycling plastic

9
bottles, aluminum foil through curbside recycling

2003: Federal judge

10
rules programs to protect salmon runs in Snake and Columbia Rivers are not enough

11
2003: Whale-watchers report killer whales, porpoises agitated by sonar from Navy destroyer off

12
San Juan Isl

2003: Senate panel okays research on small nuclear bombs in annual defense au-

13
thorization bill

2001: Boeing selects Chicago for its new corporate headquar-

14
ters

2003: US WMD search team gives up

2003: US Gen claims

15
WMDs may be held by Iraqi Special Units

2003: Gen Franks declares Baath Party

16
dead

2003: Texas Democrats flee to Oklahoma; Texas state troopers and Rang-

17
ers ordered to track them down

2003: Texas democrats remain in Okla-

18
homa

2003: Bush orders the expulsion of 14 Cuban diplomats

19
2003: Cuba claims US accusations are lies

2003: Navy admits use of mid-frequency

20
sonar in Puget Sound

2003: Two men on a motorcycle bomb 18 Shell gas stations one

21
after another before dawn in Pakistan

2003: Texas Democrats return home

22
2003: WA Department of Ecology workers vote to unionize

2003: LA Times re-

23
ports 1,700 Iraqi civilians have died,, 8,000 more were injured in battle for Baghdad

24
2003: Iraqi clergy call protest of occupation

2003: Philippine government bombs Mus-

25
lim rebel strongholds

2003: Locke signs bill raising gas tax 5 cents

2003: Homeland Se-

26
curity to fingerprint, photograph foreign visitors

2003: US House votes to accelerate cutting

27
of trees on 20 million acres determined to be prone to wildfires

2003: 20% of Iraqi radioactive material

28
missing., 2 hot spots found where looters dumped barrels

2003: United Nations announces it will in-

29
vestigate the discovery of more than 300 bodies in NE Congo

2003: City of Olym-

30
pia releases report showing proposed Arts center would run a monthly $112,800 deficit

31
2003: Planned changes to NW Forest Plan will no longer require surveys for sensitive species before logging

War should be made a crime, and those who instigate it should be punished as criminals. Charles Evans Hughes

Liberty and democracy become unholy when their hands are dyed red with innocent blood.
Gandhi, Non-violence in Peace and War

Breaking the "Bigger is Better" Dogma in Thurston County

By Marco Rosaire Rossi

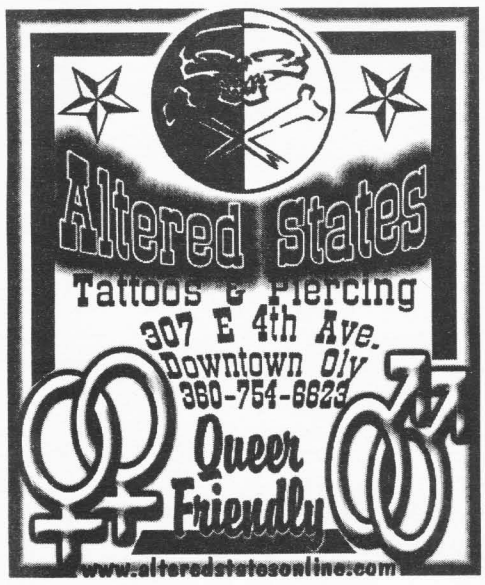
It is estimated that it will cost around $67 a day for each person that is incarcerated. At that price it would be cheaper to send a person with a 210 day sentence through a year at The Evergreen State College than it would be to keep them locked-up.

In their book *Corrections in America*, Harry Allen and Clifford Simonsen (1978) make an important observation about the construction and ideological foundations of prisons in the beginning of the 19th century:

"Bigger is better" (and cheaper) was the watchword of early prison builders. These huge gothic-style structures achieved an effect similar to the cathedrals of Europe in the Middle Ages, that of making people inside seem small and insignificant. This feeling was further enhanced by the system of stern and severe discipline employed by these huge castles of despair... it should be noted at this point that the size of these early prisons gave rise to a subtle pressure to keep them filled with the castoffs of society. (p. 41)

The importance of Allen and Simonsen's observation is not what it says about conventional concepts of criminal justice in the 19th century, but what it says about criminal justice today. The belief that "bigger is better" and that "size does matter" is not simply a tendency within corrections in the United States- it's a dogma. In addition, this dogma is not reserved for the most harsh and totalizing institution in corrections- the prison, but is also the foundation for construction of jails.

People in America need to look no further than the Los Angeles County Jail, the largest penal colony in the "free world," to find "castles of despair" that would dwarf the standards of the early 19th century. This mega-facility holds more than 23,000 inmates, nearly half the entire prison population of France. The Twin Towers Correctional Facility in downtown Los Angeles is the largest jail in the world. This one facility has 1.2 million square feet, houses almost 4,500 inmates, and employs 2,400 people. The total cost to run this single facility is $397 million a year.[1] In total, a quarter of a million people enter through the gates of the Los Angeles County Jail at a total cost of $1.1 billion a year. Not far behind Los Angeles County Jail is New York City's Rikers Island. The New York City Department of Corrections averages a daily population of 20,000 inmates. Rikers Island, one of the oldest penal colonies in the United States, is made up of ten different facilities, and houses more 16,000 inmates.



Much of this mass construction and incarceration was caused by dramatic shifts in criminal justice policies in the United States in the late 1970s early 1980s. Eight years ago in there were 542,000 adults under jail supervision in the United States. Today, there are around 738,000,[2] along with 200 new jail beds built every day in the United States. However, as described above, the general framework of mass incarceration has been a part of American society since the beginning. The "drug war," the "war on crime" and most recently "the war on terror" are only the most recent manifestations of this harsh logic.

Despite the allegiance to this logic (or perhaps because of it) social scientists in the U.S. have begun to put the "bigger is better" dogma under a microscope and analyze whether its promises of enhancing public safety and cheaper cost are true. What they are finding is that conventional wisdom is wrong on many levels, and it is the citizens and prisoners who are paying the cost for it.

Thurston County Washington is dealing with a problem that it is all too familiar with- jail overcrowding. For over a decade, officials in the county have been well aware of overcrowding concerns. The current jail for Thurston County, which was constructed in 1978, was designed to handle 86 inmates. Since that time the jail population has increased almost five times what it was originally designed for. In the past ten years the jail population has increased by 109 percent. The expansion has forced the county to expand its facilities to 408 beds, and at times put mattress of the floor of jail cells for inmates to sleep on. According to the American Correction Association, the square footage of the jail is designed to only accommodate 221 prisoners.

As would be expected, the overcrowding has put staff in an uncomfortable position and violates the human rights of prisoners. In 2001, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) did a tour of the jail and requested that the county take mattresses off the floor and find ways to deal with the overcrowding or face litigation.

These circumstances prompted officials in the county to look into other options besides jamming more people into the same jail. Officials finally agreed on constructing a Regional Law and Justice Center (recently the name has been changed to the Thurston Justice Center) that eventually would not only have 1,215 beds, but also room for 20 municipal and superior courtrooms and new offices. This new Justice Center comes at a sizable cost. Initially the price of construction was estimated at $160 million. Recently, an architect on the project estimated that the new jail could cost around $200 million dollars. A difficult bill to pay for a county Thurston's size.

Despite the cost, the officials in the county have sought to pursue the project, and to do so in phases. Phase I includes building a new facility with 650 beds that will cost just over $100 million. Officials in Thurston County plan to raise the first $88 million for the Regional Law and Justice Center through raising property taxes. This raise in property tax requires a 60 percent majority vote by the residents of the county on May 18, 2004.

As expected, there is resistance to the project. Thurston Jail Alternatives, a political action committee made up of concerned citizens from various backgrounds and political beliefs, has mounted a strong opposition to the construction of the new jail. The group has concluded that constructing the new mega-jail will not lead to greater public safety and could lead the county down to a fiscal nightmare in the near future.

Staff from Columbia University and Columbia Law School have published a paper which contradicts much of the conventional wisdom of criminal justice. According to Jeffery Fagan, Valerie West, and Jan Holland (2003) incarceration has a great potential to increase crime rate in low-income and poverty stricken areas rather than deter crime. Incarceration, when viewed as an integrated part of the social ecology of low-income and poor areas, disrupts family ties and social networks, reduces incentives of citizens to participate in informal social control, and stigmatizes individuals and neighborhoods. This process, the authors explain, creates a vicious cycle where people engage in crime because options to jobs and economic stability disappear. These findings are not surprising for many people working on criminal justice issues for years. In the December of 1979, just as incarceration was beginning to dramatically increase, Bob Gross, a member of the Brethen Criminal Justice New Covenant Fellowship, presented a lecture at the University of Iowa citing a recent study done at the time that showed that the 15 U.S. states where prison capacity increased fifty-six percent from 1955 to 1975 had more reported crimes than in 15 states where prison capacity increased only four percent.

Thurston County, like most of Washington, has a high unemployment rate. This makes it likely that neighborhoods and communities which are low-income and poverty stricken will experience an increase in crime as incarceration grows. If current conceptions and policies in incarceration do not change, then it is possible that jails in Thurston County could be causing more crime then they are preventing in a matter of decades.

The situation becomes even bleaker when the cost of criminal justice is factored in. Thurston County currently pays 76 percent of its general fund to criminal justice; that is $202.55 from each person in Thurston County. If this increasing cost in criminal justice continues, then by 2035, the same time in which the Thurston Justice Center is expected to become overcrowded and obsolete, the county will be dedicating 100 percent of its general fund to policing, processing, monitoring, and incarcerating its residents.

If the plan for construction of the Thurston Justice Center follows through at an estimated cost $200 million, then in effect, residents in the county will have paid around $164,000 per jail bed. In addition, it is estimated that it will cost around $67 a day for each person that is incarcerated. At that price it would be cheaper to send a person with a 210 day sentence through a year at The Evergreen State College than it would be to keep them locked-up.

Even before the new jail is built, residents in Thurston County are losing money at the current rate it is incarcerating people. In May of 2001, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy released a study which analyzed the cost-benefit analysis of incarcerating people in prison compared to other programs. One conclusion of the study was that incarcerating drug offenders in prisoners was more costly to taxpayers than the social cost created by their crime. A supplement to the report in January, 2003, elaborated on this conclusion and specified the actual amount for Washington State. The institute found that for every $1 tax payers spend on incarcerating a drug offender, the public receives 37 cents in return benefits to society. The Washington taxpayer ends up losing 63 cents every time a drug offender is incarcerated. For jails, and specifically for Thurston County where drug offenders make up the majority of those incarcerated by single crime (around 1/5 of the population), the returns benefits to the taxpayers are even less. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (2001) concluded that incarceration only appears logical in a cost-benefit analysis sense for those individuals who exhibit repeat violent tendencies. By merely reducing the days in custody for drug offenders, which is averaged around 41 days and is high compared to other surrounding counties, and by diverting drug offenders into other programs besides jail, Thurston County would be able to reduce its jail population and save taxpayer money.

The institute found that for every $1 tax payers spend on incarcerating a drug offender, the public receives 37 cents in return benefits to society.

Unfortunately, officials in Thurston County are not exploring these studies and looking for alternatives. Instead they

(continues on next page)

remain dedicated to the "bigger is better" dogma and it is the people in Thurston County, both those incarcerated and in jail and on the outside, who are going to pay in the terms of social and economic cost. It would be beneficial to look to other counties, such as Mobile County, Alabama, to develop some idea on how to deal with issues of criminal justice and public safety.

Twenty years ago, that jail in Mobile County was so overcrowded that a federal court fined that county thousands of dollars each day. As a result, the county spent $25 million on a new facility that was designed to hold 813 prisoners- that was more than $30,000 a cell. Today, the Mobile County Metro Jail is overcrowded by one-third. This massive overcrowding has compromised the safety of guards and jeopardized the health care and access to jail programs for prisons. Instead of building a new jail though, officials in the county are examining alternatives sentencing and community oriented problem solving approaches to jail issues.

Before activists hold Mobile County as an example of progressive criminal justice they should understand that the county is investigating these options out of necessity; conventional options have either failed or are too expensive to continue. In addition, the changes appear moderate, slow, and mostly within a paternalistic treatment paradigm. However, Mobile County can teach Thurston County, and the rest of the counties in the United States, an important lesson: "We cannot build our way out of the problem… Jails are capacity-driven. Cut the ribbon, and they are full" (Smyla, 2004; p. 41). The recognition of this truism is an important step in developing a more reasonable policy toward criminal justice and breaking the "bigger is better" dogma that has pushed the construction of prisons and jails for the last 200 years.

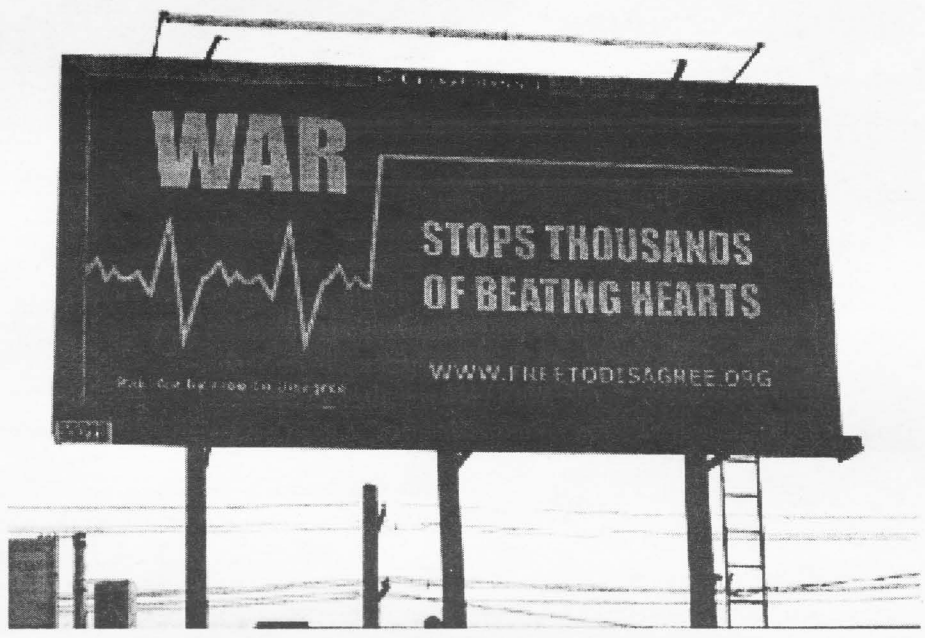
1 County Corrections Facilities and Jails – Los Angeles County

http://www.losangelesalmanac.com/topics/Crime/cr25.htm 03/29/04

2 Smyla, John (2004). "More than a space problem." American Jails. Jan/Feb. 41-43.

Billboards for the people!: Local nonprofit gets the word out

by Alicia Elliot



We can rescue our right to govern this country with a common voice, through speaking out loud and clear in a language that everyone understands.

Free To Disagree started with an uncomfortable feeling. A feeling like watching a bad dream and being helpless to stop it. Sure, there are good parts to the dream also: I support small, local businesses when I can, and buy organic products whenever possible. I vote, and play an active role in my kid's education. I support alternative and progressive technology whenever it touches my life, and TV hasn't been a part of my household since 1990. Still, the uncomfortable feeling was there. Was I letting the big corporations take over my government and run the world? Everywhere I went the corporate message was in my face, and never a rebuttal to be found. Where were my progressive ideals? Where were they reflected in my culture? Oh sure there have always been the alternative journals I could root out, and bravo to them, but they don't appear at the major news racks. The progressive voice has been marginalized and can only be found in "alternative" enclaves. At some point , it seemed to me, we have to venture out of the margins we have found ourselves in, start speaking the mainstream language (corporatese) and gain the mainstream ear.

Billboards are a popular corporate game. They have been proven time and time again to have the subtle ability to get into the mind of the passerby by just being there. So subtle in fact, that the person glancing inadvertently at it as they go by, sometimes doesn't even know that they just saw an advertisement. The right to advertise has become an indisputable fact of life in the modern world. It seems to carry even more importance and respect than our right to free speech. That is certainly troubling, but not without a solution. I took a cue from Adbusters and MoveOn.Org and others, who have started to enter the mainstream media with their messages of social change. What better way to help everyday America wake up, than to get inside its world and start speaking the language it has become adept at listening to?

Free to Dsagree began as a first foray into that mainstream media world. It started as a nonprofit with the sole purpose of raising money to rent billboard space to air propeace and of the people ideals. First I found out who owned the billboards, Clear Channel, and how much they were, $940 a month, and took it quickly from there. Hold on, did I say Clear Channel? Yes, that's right, the well known mega-monopoly owns every board in town. How I can justify giving them money? The same way I justify it when I buy gas to drive my car to a peace rally in Seattle. I consider the money given to Clear Channel to advertise, well spent. The return is people who see the billboard , becoming emboldened to express themselves and get their opinions out in a big way. The return is also my community having a chance to see that they have the mainstream media world at their disposal. The founding mothers and fathers warned us about monopolistic tendency and global urges that leaders tend to get. They said power to the people, that will keep leaders in line. A lot of the people however, haven't been paying attention. Some of us have allowed corporate advertisers to seduce us with their slick, fantasy world. Some have thrown up their hands in despair and opted out. When we don't pay attention, or give up, our chance to change America is greatly at risk. We can rescue our right to govern this country with a common voice, through speaking out loud and clear in a language that everyone understands.

In it's third month, Free To Disagree has raised over 4,000 dollars and sponsored three billboards through private donations alone. We are preparing a new design for our May-June boards. Our 95 donors have recently decided on our new billboard messages by majority vote, from choices submitted by concerned citizens. The winning messages are a Pablo Casals quote that say "The love of one's country is a splendid thing, but why should love stop at the border?" with a graphic of our planet Earth from space, and "War is Terrorism" with a graphic of terrified children. These images, and the others that the donors voted on can be viewed on our web site. You can become a voting donor with a minimum of five dollars a month or two hours time a month. Though this nonprofit is currently 95 donors strong, it is hoping to increase that number to 300. With three hundred donors, giving five dollars a month, we can run two billboards a month for as long as we see fit. Isn't your voice worth more than a couple of lattes? Find out how YOU can join this local effort. Go online at www.freetodisagree.org, or write to us at: Free To Disagree, P.O. Box 12745, Olympia, WA.

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Instant Runoff Voting Initiative Signature Campaign NOW

by Drew Hendricks

The effort is led by Greens, Libertarians, Progressive Democrats, and Republicans and is truly a multi-party effort of people who understand that ours is perhaps the most regressive electoral system on the planet.

The former Coalition for Instant Runoff Voting has filed an Initiative to the Legislature, which would eliminate primary elections and allow voters to rank their choices in a single general election each fall.

By eliminating the primary, the initiative actually saves the best features of the old "blanket" primary system, which was held unconstitutional and must either be changed or abolished. Under the blanket primary, voters did not have to register by party, declare a party, or take only one party's ballot to vote in the election. The system had been in place since the 1930's, when a progressive coalition under the Grange's leadership passed the law to mute the effects of parties in elections. The reform allowed people to cast votes for candidates from any or all of the parties, so candidates had to speak to the issues rather than merely run on their labels. This worked for decades until the major parties complained about a similar law in California. Party leaders here picked up the case when the California challenge was successful.

The blanket primary was a pain for party organizers, who must spend money and time polling voters to find out which ones to send mailings and phone calls to. Many states have lists of which voters are in whichever party, from records of which ballot they chose at a primary election. Washington State's voters have not wanted to change the old system, but the political parties had their own ideas.

Instant Runoff Voting eliminates the primary by allowing voters to rank their choices for a single-seat election, regardless of party. If no one wins the first-choice votes of more than half of the ballots, the candidates who got the least votes are dropped from the race one by one and those ballots are counted for second-choice votes. The winner is the candidate to receive at least half of the votes cast.

Instant Runoff Voting, or IRV, is similar to holding a run-off election, but it can be done without an expensive second election and the long campaign season created by the delay between elections. It eliminates the "spoiler" effect of splitting support for a candidate, only to give his opposite the plurality and the victory. This is the "first past the post" system, where the largest number of votes wins – even though it could be much less than a majority of the total votes cast. Many single-seat races are won with 26-45% pluralities today. Some are won with even less.

Instant Runoff Voting is already used in Ireland, Australia, and is used to assign the Academy Awards and the Heisman Trophy in football here in the Unites States. Vancouver Washington passed a law allowing them to try IRV a few years ago, only to be held up by the failure of State law to catch up and allow the change.

The latest campaign, called IRVWA, must collect at least 198,000 signatures by December 2004 to qualify its initiative for consideration by the legislature. If the Legislature does not act, the measure could go directly to the people for a vote. Previous attempts to run IRV legislation through the lobbying process were not successful, but they did educate many lawmakers about the possible advantages of IRV.

The effort is led by Greens, Libertarians, Progressive Democrats, and Republicans and is truly a multi-party effort of people who understand that ours is perhaps the most regressive electoral system on the planet.

IRVWA can be reached at www.IRVWA.org or 1-800-IRVWAORG. They need volunteers, organizers, money, love and support. Tell your friends to write their checks to IRVWA and send them to Treasurer Jerry Cronk, 17544 Midvale Avenue North, Suite 107, Shoreline, WA 98133.

Protesting the Wall:
An Olympia activist writes home from occupied Palestinian territory

by Neal Ahearn

As we made it through the groves, a group of 100 villagers were sitting on some newly bulldozed farmland, with a bulldozer facing them about 50 feet away.

Hello my friends and family, sorry if this is all over the place, I just had to get it down before I forgot it all, or most of it. Today has been quite the crazy adventure, but has also cemented emotions of how absolutely insane the soldiers here are, and how absolutely necessary it is for people to call for an end to this wall, and more importantly, an end to this occupation. It is amazing how quickly one day, actually really only five hours, can really push one forward. Today for the first time I really felt endangered, pretty scared during various moments, and even decided I would rather be shot in the back of the head than in the face, but I will get there a little later.

This morning we awoke early to head to a village called Kharbatta, which for those of you looking on maps and globes would be somewhat near the green line, and in order, below Tulkarem, then below Budrus, then below, Deir qaddis, then it should be somewhere there. I have not been to this place before and only left my series of villages to be surrounded as it was quiet here and there help was requested.

We arrived after a 45 min. drive through some of the bumpiest roads I have ever been on, it reminded me of the outer-beach in Orleans, except here the dirt roads have deep ravines made from rainwater and years of no roadwork. I was glad I didn't eat a huge breakfast or I probably would have been a little sick by the end of the day. Our driver pulled over near the worksite, which was about 500 feet down a tractor path through olive groves. There were many women and children walking past us, and away from the demo, which is usually a bad sign, and the sound of gas canisters being fired which was confirmed by its pungent odor as we walked closer, and the red rosy cheeks from people crying from too much breathing of the gas.

As we made it through the groves, a group of 100 villagers were sitting on some newly bulldozed farmland, with a bulldozer facing them about 50 feet away. We decided, not seeing the other internationals who were supposed to be there, that we would go and sit with the community, at this point it was 8:15am. I of course did legal and media work and as usual stood to the back. The demo occurred on flat land at the base of a hill which was to our right. Up on the hill there were young boys futilly throwing rocks nowhere near the soldiers as the soldiers were shooting gas and rubber bullets at them. The demo where we were had everyone sitting down on their land, and a larger component of the community standing to the back away from the range of the gas.

Over the next hour or so, the soldiers decided three times to charge the crowd as they wielded their batons. All three times, as they approached those who were sitting, all the Palestinians and internationals who were in the background came rushing up to provide physical reinforcements. The soldiers would beat a few people, there would be some pushing, and then just an awkward stand off between the two sides. After about 5-10 minutes of staring at each other, the soldiers would run back as fast as they could to their jeeps, and then upon reaching their jeeps, would turn around and begin firing rubber bullets into the crowd that was standing. After this happened the first time, we wised up and when we saw the soldiers run for their jeeps, we too turned around and ran with the hopes of finding cover before they turned around and shot. And as we ran, a group of 150 people remained on their land, sitting or lying down.

It was during the first of these 3 routines, that I found myself getting shot at, so I tried to lie on the ground and crawl away from the scene when a rubber bullet went flying into the back of my upper leg. Luckily I was wearing baggy pants, and I don't even think I have a bruise. I gave the bullet to the man I was lying near as a souvenir, and then we shared a little laugh, and then I went and hid behind a pile of rocks while more rubber bullets whizzed past our heads as we ducked behind the rocks—definitely not a good day for doing any peeking over and rocks to check on soldiers.

While hiding behind the rocks, about 8 Israeli folks, all around my age showed up with a bullhorn. We talked briefly about the situation and then they proceeded to move forward while the rest of the crowd lay face down on the ground hoping not to get shot. The commander of the army would lift his baton in the air, then lower it and everyone would fire, and then there would be injuries and medics would go running. Sometimes the soldiers would shoot gas first, and then when people would try to move away from it, they would be shot—this whole experience was quite unnerving.

No sooner had the Israelis shown up, that one all of a sudden was being rushed back behind me towards the ambulances on a stretcher with a bloody bandage wrapped around his head. I was still standing with several of his friends when they realized who it was, they went sprinting after their friend. I later found out he was shot between the eyes, and now is in critical condition at the hospital seeing an eye specialist who will determine whether he will lose either of his eyes, or his eyesight. I will spare you the rest of the details as they are somewhat hard to handle and I think you get the picture.

Today there were over 37 injured, 30 of the 37 were above the waist injuries inflicted by rubber bullets, including 5 who were shot in the head area, including an older Palestinian woman. Now with all these injuries, it will be the injury to the

(continues on page 8)

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The Struggle for Justice is a Struggle for Life: El Salvador's quest for peace

By Genevieve Long/The Epoch Times

Twenty-four years ago a man named Oscar Romero, the Archbishop of El Salvador, was assassinated in cold blood. Monsignor Romero was a voice of the marginalized poor at the beginning of the country's civil war in the 1980's. He, like so many other Salvadorans, died in a battle that should never have been waged—a fight for the right to live.

As Archbishop in a country where 95% of the population is Roman Catholic, Romero was a voice of the common citizens in their appeal to the ruling class oligarchy and the military's death squads to stop killing and kidnapping their families and friends.

On a battlefield where the might of the military was driven by US weapons, training, and political support, Romero's appeals included asking the US government to stop sending military aid to his country. According to Tom Gibb, BBC correspondent in El Salvador during the 1980's civil war, "It was the largest counter-insurgency war against left-wing guerrillas [the US had been involved in] since Vietnam."

As people continued to disappear and be murdered and tortured, Romero used his position as a religious leader to call for justice in a public appeal to the men of the armed forces on March 23rd, 1980, saying:

"Brothers, you came from your own people. You are killing your own brothers. Any human order to kill must be subordinate to the law of God, which says, 'Thou shalt not kill.' No soldier is obliged to obey an order contrary to the law of God. No one has to obey an immoral law."

Romero was shot through the heart by a professional assassin the next day while celebrating mass.

Architect of Death

The extremely public and high profile case of Archbishop Romero is but an example of the sinister methods that were used just over two decades ago by those vying for political control and power over a country being destroyed from the inside out. Romero and many others like him were silenced by assassins sent by the man who would later make an unsuccessful bid for the presidency, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson.

A United Nations Truth Commission investigation into Romero's murder in 1992 found that, "There is full evidence that …[former] Major Roberto D'Aubuisson gave the order to assassinate the Archbishop and gave precise instructions to members of his security service, acting as a 'death squad', to organize and supervise the assassination."

D'Aubuisson, a graduate of the School of the Americas, was widely known as the head of El Salvador's notorious death squads from 1978 to 1992. Before his own death in 1992, he founded the extreme right-wing political party, ARENA, which runs El Salvador to this day.

The party still holds control through members in top political positions, such as the Office of the President. In recent national elections, the ARENA candidate won the presidency for the fourth time since 1989. This sad irony is a bitter pill to swallow for the Salvadoran people who survived more than a decade of terror by those who supported ARENA's inception.

Fueling Injustice

Two years ago on the anniversary of Archbishop Romero's assassination, US President Bush made a conspicuous appearance to the tiny Central American nation. His official aim was to perpetuate the image that US involvement in the outcome of El Salvador's civil war was a 'win'.

More recently, the Bush administration has heavily endorsed the trade policies of CAFTA (Central American Free Trade Agreement), and promises that it will bring greater prosperity to both El Salvador and the US.

According to the office of the US Trade Representative, "CAFTA fulfills a key U.S. objective of opening markets with free trade partners." It is also billed as a hemispheric step toward trade liberalization that goes hand in hand with the WTO and FTAA. But one might ask whether trade deals based on the rules of the mighty US could just be another form of control, and not the positive engagement it is being billed as.

Opponents of CAFTA and the policies of ARENA paint a more shadowy picture of the state of affairs in El Salvador today than the US government. Jose "Chencho" Alas, founder of the Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central America (FSSCA), argues that the presidential win for the ARENA candidate is a sign that the people's long-waged struggle for justice is not over.

Alas, who served as an advisor to Archbishop Romero prior to his assassination, says, "The ARENA government favors CAFTA, a trade agreement that will have small and medium-sized farmers and businesses competing directly against subsidized US corporations."

Alas goes on to say that although the landscape has changed, his people's struggle remains a quest to live in safety and dignity: "If the opposition FMLN party had won, prominent US representatives had threatened to cut off El Salvador's main source of income: remittances from families living here. Thus, we begin another chapter in the struggle for peace, justice, and economic security for my people."

Continuing Struggle

El Salvador's recent history of violence, fear, and repression has left deep wounds that are healing slowly. Neighboring government policies that strive to push the country forward, without first helping it to come to terms with its past, may be missing the mark of effective international relations and diplomacy.

The Salvadoran people must live with the knowledge that their own military was responsible for the disappearance and kidnapping of more than 30,000 people and the death of nearly 70,000 by the end of the war. And they must also live with knowing that justice has not been served yet, as the military colonels responsible have never faced war crimes tribunals.

The work of peace and equality advocates like Archbishop Romero to bring justice to El Salvador continues today as this tiny nation struggles to realize its vision of democracy and freedom. It lives on in the voices of people like Chencho Alas.

Two years ago on the anniversary of Archbishop Romero's assassination, US President Bush made a conspicuous appearance to the tiny Central American nation. His official aim was to perpetuate the image that US involvement in the outcome of El Salvador's civil war was a 'win'

What El Salvador needs now, perhaps more than economic opportunity and trade deals, are strong allies to the north who are willing to help them lay their bloody history to rest.

Genevieve Long is assignment editor for the newspaper, The Epoch Times, which you can find online at: www.theepochtimes.com. She can be reached at: genevieve.long@epochtimes.com for any comments.

(from page 1: Vote "NO"...)

life" issues, and community values such as democracy and sustainability.

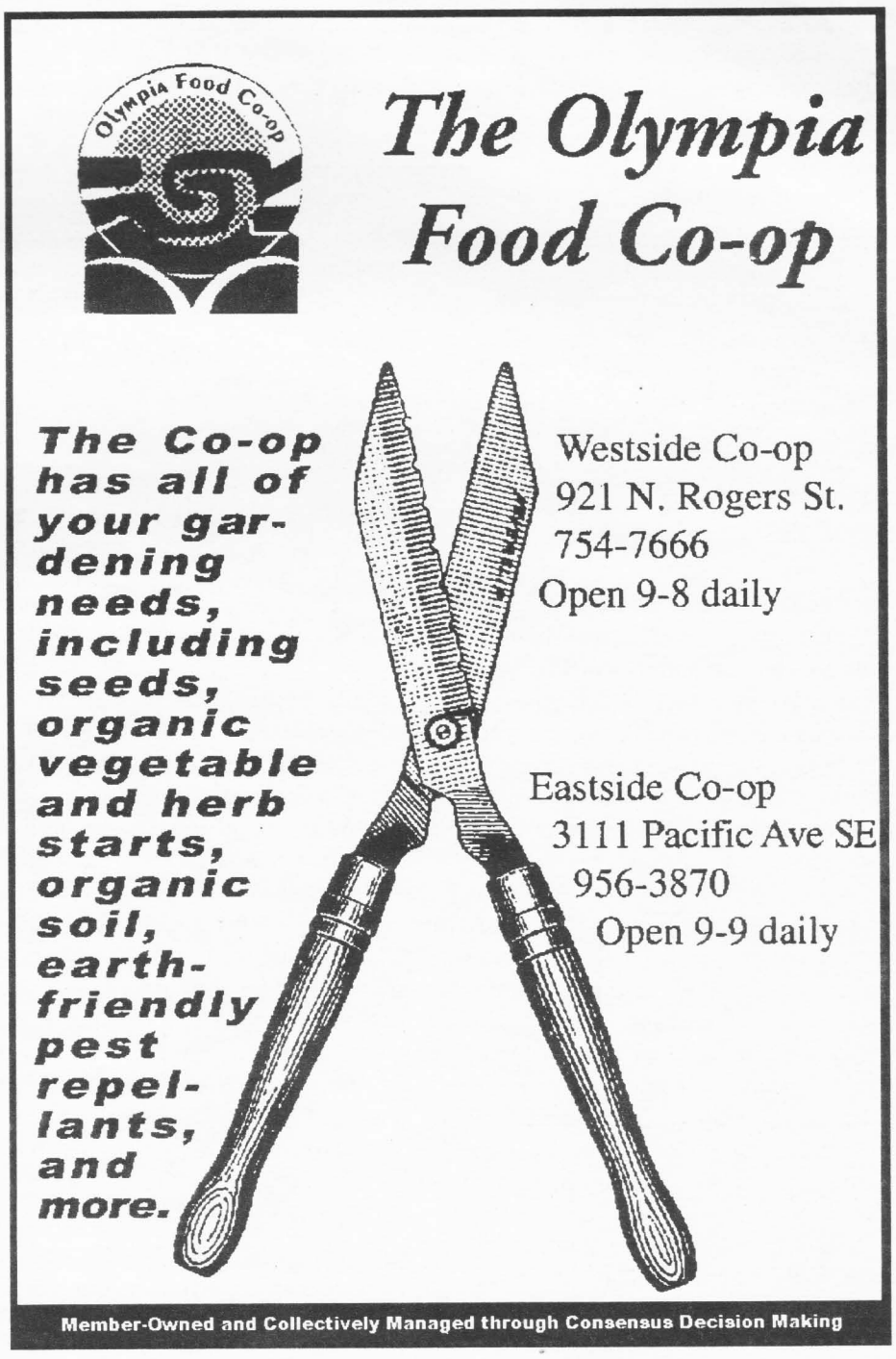
Start now. Don't wait 'til 2008

If voters pass the $88 million bond issue, the new jail won't be ready until 2008. Instead of tolerating four more years of overcrowding and failure, let's start now to develop and fund better alternatives. Some of these could start yielding results fairly quickly, while some might require a longer time to implement or produce results. Let's expand the solutions that already work locally and implement the solutions that have worked in other communities.

A diverse group of community volunteers formed a grassroots organization to oppose this expensive boondoggle and support humane, cost-effective alternative solutions. The organization — **"Thurston Jail Alternatives: Together, We Can Do Better!"** (TJA) – encourages broad community participation. A thoughtful combination of systemic efficiencies, alternatives, treatment, and remodeling can solve the problems better and at a reasonable cost.

TJA relies on small financial contributions. We invite donations to **Thurston Jail Alternatives, 7223 20th Avenue SE, Olympia WA 98503.** For more information see www.jailalternatives.org or phone Chris Stegman at (360) 705-3528.

Please vote "NO" on the jail bond issue and mail your ballot before May 18. A massive "NO" vote will get the county's attention and motivate them to collaborate with the whole community to create workable solutions.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The Iranian Revolution, Continued: A Review of Enemies of the Ayatollahs: *The Iranian Opposition's War on Islamic Fundamentalism*

London; Zed Books; 2004

By Ron Jacobs

Mohammad Mohaddessin's recent work, *Enemies of the Ayatollahs,* is a detailed and informative history of the People's Mojahedin of Iran (PMOI), the largest and oldest resistance organization in Iran. As the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Council of Resistance in Iran (NCRI)—a coalition of forces opposed to the theocracy in Iran that was founded by the PMOI and other like-minded groups and individuals—his insight is that of an insider. Judging from the text's point-of-view, it seems that the audience Mr. Mohaddessin is hoping to reach (other than his fellow Iranians) is that audience that resides in the political center in Europe and the United States. This approach limits the book's appeal to those further to the left of that audience, but remains a valuable read for those in this part of the political spectrum who wish to achieve a greater understanding of the resistance to Tehran's fundamentalist leadership. Indeed, if there were one complaint to be made about Mohaddessin's approach, it would be that PMOI's politics are not discussed in enough detail here. The details of its history, however, are quite complete.

For those who think that a blind eye should be turned to the excesses of the regime in Iran because of its opposition to US imperial ambitions, this book proves that a humane alternative to both Tehran and Washington exists. Unlike the leadership in Washington, the PMOI not only opposes the clerical tyrants in Tehran without compromise, it also opposed the tyranny of the Shah. Consequently, its claim to carry the mantle of the genuinely democratic and revolutionary spirit of the Iranian people is hard to dispute. Not only has it carried this mantle long after many of its allies either disappeared in the confusion after the Shah's departure or made peace with the theocrats, its members have paid for it in blood and prison time. Indeed, part of the text details some of the attacks on the group, describing torture and death.

Perhaps the most important theme in *Enemies of the Ayatollah*, at least in terms of its Western audience, is the presentation of an alternative vision of Islam. This vision is a cornerstone of the PMOI's opposition to the Tehran regime and is based on the premise that Islam "not only fully compatible with democracy, human rights and the values of modern-day civilization, but that it is an inherently tolerant and democratic religion." Furthermore, it is a dynamic and progressive religion that furthers, not impedes, tolerance. Mohaddessin explains that the Koran is a book that contains unalterable precepts and those that change with history, just like the Bible. The Islamic fundamentalists do not see this as being the case, just like fundamentalists in Christianity, Judaism and other religions, and try to present their literal interpretation as the only possible interpretation. The founders and members of the PMOI, on the other hand, see the Koran in a different light, subject to a reinterpretation that remains true to the essence of the words, yet takes into account the differences between today and the time when Mohammed wrote it down. This approach is no different than that of liberal Christian and Jewish denominations.

This text is very instructive as regards the current situation in Iraq and its near future. While rumors fly regarding the amount of influence the Tehran government has on various Shia clerics in Iraq, the author points out that the PMOI's vision of a revolutionary and tolerant Islam could have an equal influence in the eventual government of Iraq. He explains in detail the relationship between the deposed government of Saddam Hussein and the PMOI, as well as the relationship between the PMOI and the Iraqi people. In short, the PMOI operated completely independent of Hussein and was supported by the Iraqis who interacted with the group. This relationship enabled the PMOI to ride out the various disinformation campaigns conducted by Iran's intelligence agencies that were designed to isolate the PMOI in Iraq. Furthermore, states Mohaddessin, this relationship and the PMOI model of a revolutionary and tolerant Islam struck a resonant chord with many Iraqis who find the fundamentalist strains in both Sunni and Shia Islam repellent. This holds especially true for Iraqi women, given PMOI's clear statements supporting women's rights and the fact that its membership is around fifty percent female, with many leadership positions held by women.

One disturbing aspect of Mossaddessin's text is his referral to the support that the NCRI and PMOI have received from various members of the US government. Especially disturbing is his quoting of Daniel Pipes, the neoconservative apologist for the worst of Israel's oppressive tactics in Palestine. One would think that he would see this support for what it truly is: an attempt to manipulate these organizations into doing Washington's dirty work in replacing the theocratic regime in Iran. Conversations I have had with grassroots supporters of the PMOI, however, make it clear that the majority of its members understand that their revolutionary vision of Islam is no more palatable to US goals for the region than that of the fundamentalists. If they didn't see that before the clampdowns on the organization by the EU and US in the late summer and fall of 2003, they certainly must understand it now. In a related note, one has to wander what the PMOI and its supporters think of US "support" now, after US forces bombed their bases, "consolidated" their weapons, and shut down their offices in the United States.

Overall, *Enemies of the Ayatollah* is a very important book for people of all political persuasions who want to understand today's world. It is a well-crafted religious, political and social history that gives the reader the rest of the story about one of the twentieth century's most important revolutions—the 1979 overthrow of the Shah. It also reminds us that that revolution is far from over.

(from page 6: Protesting the Wall...)

Israeli that will be the biggest news, and I am not arguing that it isn't big news when the soldiers very seriously injure someone they are supposedly protecting with their uniform and wall, but to me the injuries of the Palestinians are just as important. But this is the way it is, shooting non-violent protestors with bullets mostly and a little tear gas, and I accept that one is bigger news than the other.

At 10:35 soldiers and border police (about 50) began pointing out internationals through binoculars and began final preparations for their big, violent push forward into the peaceful crowd, for why I am not sure as no one was stopping the work from happening. And then all of a sudden it started, first with the sound grenades, most launched directly at the group of young women who were sitting together and chanting. They began to run; I saw many trip on the rocks as more grenades were fired and then tear gas. The soldiers were moving very quickly towards me and I wanted to go and help the women out of the rocks but I figured I would only be arrested in the process. I turned to run in the olive groves as the rubber bullets began to come flying, and quickly realized I had landed in the middle of the stone throwers, who at this point began throwing stones at the violent soldiers. Then the soldiers

The army continued to chase us through the olive groves with bullets being fired everywhere: all the plastic coated steel variety.

just started firing at random into the olive groves. I tried to run to a safer area by many of the women but the bullets kept coming, and you couldn't see the soldiers shooting, only the bullets coming basically from nowhere, and the through some olive branches and then, whiizzzz, it was flying by your head.

I finally reached what I thought to be a safe spot and then through the branches came a bullet right at me, I saw it and instinctively tried to move my hips out of its direction and so it hit me in the butt and then whacked off my cell phone which was in my back pocket. An older man started calling for a doctor, which actually made me think I had been injured badly but I checked and there was no blood, and so I said I was fine, which I was. I was actually quite impressed that in the split second I saw the thing coming, I also managed to move my body and diminish the bullets effects on my body, and boy am I glad it wasn't shot any higher.

The army continued to chase us through the olive groves with bullets being fired everywhere: all the plastic coated steel variety. I worried about my friends but all but one eventually made it out, one was arrested but she just got released after signing some papers, and is back at the apartment now.

I wish I could put some positive funny spin on this day but I can't, it was just awful. I reflect most on the number of bullet injuries above the waist, as this is where you aim if you want to seriously injure someone, and the notion of shooting to seriously injure nonviolent people gathered to protect their farmland from being destroyed seems unfathomable, it is almost like the soldiers want to raise the stakes and get the palestinians more violent or something.

I don't know. I am feeling grateful that I wasn't seriously injured today, and am happy that through my expressions of solidarity that I faced the same risks as palestinians, not that I came here to face risks, but in the sense that they could see we were all taking these risks for them, and me as an American getting shot at by American weapons paid for by US tax dollars must work against some of the propaganda that exists in our two lands about each other, and each other's feelings towards one another. I hadn't been that unsure about my safety in a very long time, I really had to do some personal questioning today and serious checking in with myself. I am fine now, and I recognize the people here face much worse, and much more regularly, but it is all relative to one's experience, and this day is like no other I have ever had. I love you all and am definitely feeling fine and very happy to be back in Biddu, I will talk to you soon, and continue to hope things will change here and tomorrow will be a safer day for all of us.

Love your friend, son and brother, Neal.

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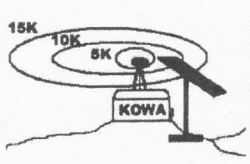

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(from page 1: Poisoning Capitol...)

information were found under triclopyr or Garlon 3A (triclopyr and some "inert" ingredients I will address later) which have been extensively tested; all applicable to Renovate, which could be used in the lake.

Triclopyr was registered in 1979, its major manufacture is Dow Agro Sciences which is a subsidiary of Dow Chemical. SePro is the company that the state would be buying the product from (they buy from Dow Chemical) and AquaTechnex (run by Terry McNabb) would do the application. In answering a citizens question put out about the relationship between agent orange (which was used heavily in the Vietnam War with extreme consequences due to dioxins resulting from its synthesis) and triclopyr, David Schilperoort of the state GA handed out sheets that read "Supporting Facts: The molecule of triclopyr acid is structurally similar to the two herbicides in Agent Orange." "Agent Orange contained two active ingredients: 2, 4-D and 2,4,5-T. Triclopyr acid is one atom different from 2,4,5-T and two atoms from 2,4-D." The major difference being that triclopyr does not produce the dioxins. Triclopyr is in the carboxylic acid chemical family.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates about 700,000 pounds per year of the chemical is used annually in this country. Pastures, woodlands, and rights of way use 75% of the 700,000 pounds the rest being agricultural (mostly rice) and applied to the lawns of Americans. According to the Journal of Pesticide Reform, short-term exposure results in "lethargy incoordination, weakness, difficult breathing, and tremors. Anorexia and diarrhea have also been observed in animals exposed to triclopyr". They continue saying the "EPA classifies the triethylamine salt of triclopyr in the agency's highest acute toxicity category for eye irritation." This is stated clearly in the Dow Chemical Fact Sheet which says that triclopyr "causes irreversible eye damage" and has "corrosive effect on the eyes" according to the Renovate technical bulletin put out by SePro. The Journal of Pesticide Reform (JPR) goes on to say that in an approximately three month period "triclopyr caused kidney damage (degeneration of tubules)" in studies done on rats. Long-term effects included more kidney damage, a decrease in hemoglobin and red blood cells, and liver damage."

This information is from tests done by the EPA but the JPR reports that no "publicly available" studies have been done on toxicity, mutagenicity, carcinogenicity, or effects of reproduction. So for instance some of the EPA's testing showing kidney damage in dogs was "criticized by triclopyr manufacturer because of studies the company conducted showing that triclopyr is more slowly excreted by dogs than other animals. As a result, EPA classified the kidney damage as 'not a toxic response but a physiologic response of the dog' and did not use the results in its more recent evaluation of triclopyr."

Yet EPA's own test show triclopyr triggered dominant lethal mutations in rat embryos, an increase in the occurrence of breast cancer in female rats and mice, a rise in adrenal tumors in male rats, rats started having litters that decreased in numbers and actual size of newborns after two generations, the number of fetuses born dead rose, as did embryo loss. Rabbits suffered similar problem with reproduction. Survival rates among bird nestlings diminished, with tests being specifically done on ducks. Fish have shown "effects on behavior ('voluntary neuromuscular control was lost and all the fish lay flaccid on the bottom, with irregular and labored breathing,' according to the researchers who conducted this study) have been observed at lower concentrations one-half the LC50." LC50 is the concentration that will kill half the animals being tested on. Tadpoles lose their ability to react and escape predators, not moving even when touched, not to mention effects on small mammals, fungi in soil, and plants (remember it is an herbicide). This was all reported in the Journal of Pesticide Reform in the winter of 2000, with most of the test done by the EPA.

Although the amount of the chemical being proposed for Capitol Lake, 2.5 parts per million, is less than that used in most of the studies, remember that 700,000 pounds of triclopyr are used annually nationwide. This means that animals (including us) have multiple and prolonged opportunities for exposure; the effect is cumulative. In Washington state triclopyr is used in clear cuts and nursery farms for logging corporations, which western Washington in particular has lots of. And the other form of triclopyr which is used commonly has even worse effects than I have mentioned, especially with fish. And rain brings everything to the rivers, hence to the fish, or down into our drinking water. Triclopyr is very persistent, especially when used on land. According to Beyond Pesticides a Swedish study found residues persisting for 2 years or longer. And the chemicals they break down into will persist up to ten months or more.

So what chemicals do triclopyr break down into? The breakdown that happens most is 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol, or TCP. TCP is metabolite (a result of metabolism) of the organophosphate insecticide chlorpyrifos. This adversely effects the "development and maturation of the nervous system that occurs in fetuses, infants, and children. Using a lavatory test system (a cell culture), the researchers showed that exposure to TCP inhibits neurons (nervous system cells) from undergoing normal growth. Concentrations of only .2 parts per million (ppm) were sufficient to disrupt growth," (JPR). The amount of triclopyr David Shilperoort has been saying the state will apply to Capitol Lake is 2.5 ppm. "TCP also disrupts the functions of mitochondria, structures in virtually all cells that convert food into energy usable by the cell. In a study using mitochondria from rat liver cells, concentrations of 2 ppm reduced four measures of mitochondrial function by at least 30 percent," (JPR).

Not only does the chemical triclopyr break down into extremely dangerous compounds, but the inert ingredients are hazardous as well. Triethylamine, which is 3% of the Renovate make-up, "is damaging to eyes and can cause abnormal vision and irreversible damage. It is extremely destructive to skin and the upper respiratory tract. Symptoms of exposure include coughing, wheezing, headache, and nausea," (JPR). Ethylenediamine tetraascetic acid "causes eye and skin irritation and is also irritating to the upper respiratory tract. In laboratory tests with rats, it caused a variety of birth defects: cleft palate, eye defects, and abnormal skeletons," (JPR). This information comes from Sigma Chemical Co. material safety sheet, National Library of Medicine Hazardous Substance Data Bank, and the EPA.

So with all this information available, why is this product allowed to enter the state, much less use it in Capitol Lake? One local activist, Jeffrey Denison, points to conflicts of interest that are involved. One example is Mr. Shilperoort using Terry McNabb as an independent consultant when Mr. McNabb "stands to financially profit off the application of herbicides to Capitol Lake." Another conflict Mr. Denison points out is that "Kathy Hamel, who will issue the permits to use triclopyr for the so-called Federal Clean Water Act is listed on the web page for the Board of Directors of the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society with its president, Shaun Hyde of SePro. This organization, which purports to promote scientific research and education, is funded by several corporations including DowAgroSciences, Monsanto, and SePro."

Just take this statement in a hand out given by David Shilperoort at the meeting April 14: "The word 'pesticide' and poison are not synonymous. Relatively few pesticides are poisonous to humans according to the standard meaning of the term." The suffix 'cide' means to destroy, i.e. genocide, homicide, pesticide, every term means to annihilate something. And pesticides, herbicides, fungicides all work by poisoning their desired target. Here is a quote from the EPA: "By their very nature most pesticides create some risk of harm to humans, animals, or the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms."

For David Schilperoort to accept the specious reasoning of these chemical corporations either shows his utter corruption or stupidity, probably a combination of both. Take this quote coming from DowAgro Sciences, who produces the triclopyr Mr. Schilperoort would purchase: "If ingested, Garlon 3A has a low toxicity when compared to many substances we come into contact with daily. For instance, table salt is about as toxic as Garlon 3A, and caffeine is 15 times more toxic than Garlon 3A." Next time you are eating you might at well exclaim, "Pass the Garlon 3A (aka Renovate) please!"

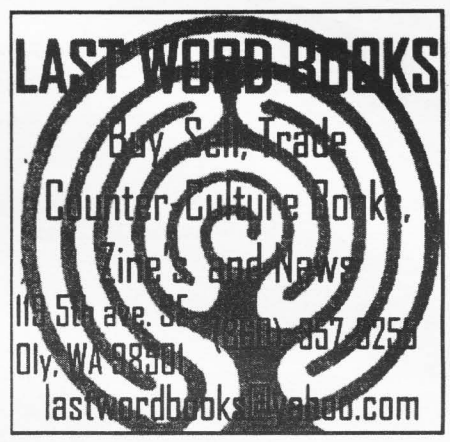
On May 6th, CLAMP meets to decide on their proposal regarding Renovate use in Capitol Lake. Their choice, however, is not a mandate and when I asked Mr. Schil-peroort if he would honor the CLAMP decision he said he is not sure. On May 4th the Olympia city council is dedicating the meeting to the issue, letting people speak and then the council will vote to see what their one vote on the CLAMP board will be.

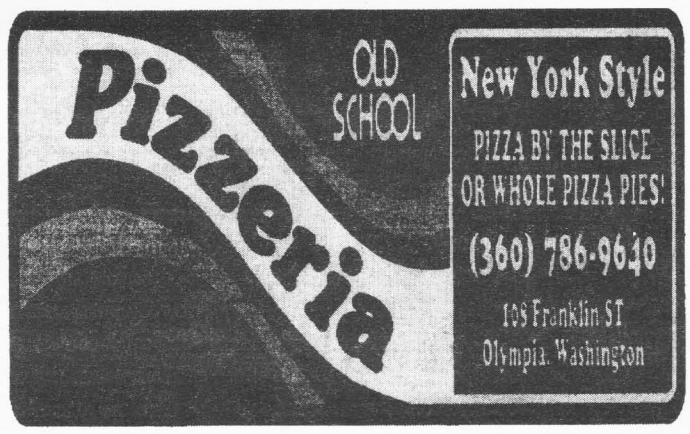
If spraying happens it will be in July, which is not the best time to spray but done to lessen the impact on the salmon. The General Administration has not even come up with a plan, or at least publicly, to deal with the milfoil once it dies. Will they let it sit there and cause eutrophication, or manually remove the milfoil and dispose of it as the hazardous waste it will be.

And will this even get rid of the Eurasian milfoil? As another local activist Jerry Dierker wrote in a letter to the State Department of General Administration "even Department of Ecology's Kathy Hamel has admitted that to eradicate the milfoil in DOE's "Long Lake" project DOE and others had to use more toxic herbicides, divers, mechanical harvesters, and even "covering" the bottom of the lake with large panels to eradicate the milfoil in Long Lake over a several year long fight; and/or there also appears to be no evidence in the agency record which would show that GA has ever conducted short-term or long-term testing of the "cumulative" and/or "synergistic" environmental or health effects of a mixture of the herbicide triclopyr in "combination with the hundreds of different toxins substances which are known to be contaminating the fresh and salt waters of Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet." So realistically, one spray won't solve the problem; multiple sprays will be necessary to achieve the desired effect.

The people running the corporations and the government understand these chemicals and their effect on humans. To compare Garlon 3A (Renovate) to salt or caffeine is an outrageous lie – a malicious attempt to deceive the public. What we have is not a corrupt politician nor a corrupt corporation but a corrupt system which fosters this kind of behavior.

Should the triclopyr proposal be stopped by the people of this area? Yes. As we organize though, we need to not fight every chemical application case by case. This is organized crime and needs to be stopped by any means necessary.





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Just a Few Faces of Racism

By Krystal Kyer

Olympia. Progressive. Liberal. Tolerant. A few words used to describe Olympia, and the Puget Sound region in general. They may be accurate, maybe not, but its definitely not complete.

Take the case of James Whitfield, charged with first-degree assault for having intercourse with at least four women with full knowledge that he had contracted HIV. Not a good thing for anyone to do.

Soon after word got out, some Lacey neighborhoods received flyers on their doorsteps that read: "Don't Have Sex With Blacks; Avoid AIDS!" James Whitfield is African-American. Many residents told the media they were upset by the message sponsored by the National Alliance.

Who is the National Alliance?

In Keith Eldridge's April 1 article, Racist Group is Spreading Messages of Hate, he calls it a "racist organization." The next day, The Olympian's top story describes the group as a "West-Virginia-based white separatist organization... [that] ...opposes racial mixing." The Southern Poverty Law Center characterizes the National Alliance as a Neo-Nazi group, the premier Neo-Nazi group in this country.

In another recently publicized case, on April 16, Dane and Jacob Miller, both 16, plead guilty to malicious harassment for burning a cross in African-American Reverend Jason Martin's front lawn in Arlington WA.

The Southern Poverty Law Center's website reported finding sixteen hate groups in Washington State in 2002. What might surprise you more is that all but two of these groups are in Western Washington.

The National Alliance, responsible for the hateful flyer distributions in Lacey, is listed as having chapters in Tacoma and Seattle. The group has also distributed flyers in other cities, claiming it is a recruitment tool.

Even closer to home, a Neo-Nazi group, the National Socialist Movement, resides in Yelm WA. Finally, Olympia hosts NF Publications, another hate group. A google search turned up a few webpages for the group and a PO Box in Olympia. They are a white supremacist group that encourages whites to migrate to the northwest (here) and populate it with white people as part of a racial war to maintain the "Aryan nation."

There are numerous types of hate groups in Washington and in the US, and each has its own peculiar ideology. So why are they lumped together in the category of a 'hate' group?

With the exception of Black Separatist groups and other non-white based groups, they all hold on to a white supremacist ideology. The Challenging White Supremacy Workshop defines white supremacist ideology *this way:*

"white-dominated US culture perpetuates the ideology that white people – people of Europe and of European descent – are morally and intellectually superior to people of color; and that peoples and nations of color – people from the Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Arab world and their US descendents – are morally and intellectually inferior to white people."

Even if you vehemently disagree with such a worldview, no one can escape from an "historically based, institutionally perpetuated system" of white privilege. *If, by chance, you're white, you benefit. Period. If, by chance, you're not white, you are harmed. Like a coin, white privilege has two sides. On the top, white people receive preferential treatment based on the fact that they are white. On the bottom, people who don't trace their ancestral origins to Europe do not get the privileges afforded to whites.*

What does white privilege look like today?

If you are white, here are just a few of the things it can mean: Access to student loans; low-interest credit; living in the neighborhood of your choice; access to business loans; light criminal sentences; cheaper insurance rates; less police harassment and brutality; better schools for your kids; a home loan. In short, more opportunities. Of course, these facets of white privilege are tempered by one's socio-economic status – how much money and education you have. If you are not white, you don't have the same 'privileges,' which translates to less opportunities. White privilege serves to maintain disparities between races and classes and reinforces the notion of white supremacy.

White supremacy *is defined as "an historically based, institutionally perpetuated system of exploitation and oppression of continents, nations, and peoples of color by white peoples and nations of the European continent, for the purpose of maintaining and defending a system of wealth, power, and privilege." (From Challenging White Supremacy Workshop)*

The familiar case of Captain James Yee, of Olympia, illustrates the racism within the Army. All charges were recently dropped against him, but only after a media frenzy and over seventy days in solitary confinement. Might it be the case that anyone who isn't white or Christian is a terrorist suspect?

The prison industrial complex (PIC) is the second example. There are about 2 million people in prison, and 6.5 million under supervision. Minorities receive longer sentences for similar crimes by whites. Minorities also serve disproportionately in prisons, as in the military. The prison industry – from food service to private prisons to state license plates to military uniforms to cabinets to cotton pickers to telemarketers – you name it – benefits from cheap – almost free – prison labor. Prisons are being constructed at record rates. No wonder, the potential profits are outrageous and the prison industry is a wealth builder for the corporations, just as the plantation owners used slaves to build their wealth.

No one can escape from an historically based, institutionally perpetuated system of white privilege ... It is a vicious circle. A strong circle. And one that must be broken.

It is a vicious circle. A strong circle. And one that must be broken.

A lot of progress was made in the 20th century, but we have a long way to go. Many of the obstacles to equality and justice lay in the realm of institutionalized racism/white supremacy. It appears subtler than person-to-person racism like that of cross-burning, and therefore is more insidious. In fact, I suspect most people would deny that institutional racism even exists. Yet, if you're not white, its painfully obvious and very real. Two(?) examples: the military and prisons.

The proportion of minorities serving in the US military today is twice that of their proportion in the civilian population. That means if minorities account for 15% of the population in the US, they make up 30% of armed forces personnel. Within the military, minorities disproportionately serve in the more dangerous job categories. The system of white privilege allows whites more opportunities to choose from, thus proportionally fewer (proportionally; not in real numbers) join the military. Conversely, minorities with less options for employment, education, healthcare, and housing, enlist in the military at higher rates.

The military has its own share of racism, rape scandals, hazing, homophobia, drugs, poverty, and domestic violence. Having served as a Shore Patrolman in the Navy, I saw many of these very real problems – and they are not limited to the military.

The Thirteenth Amendment, Section 1, to the US Constitution reads:

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Prisons are used as a solution to social, political, and economic problems in this country. Prisons are not the answer. In Thurston County there is strong organizing around opposing the proposed Thurston County Jail complex. We must oppose this project, but not with a "not in my backyard" attitude.

For more info on hate groups and what to do:

Online: www.splcenter.org
www.tolerance.org
www.hatefreezone.org

For more info on the prison industrial complex and what you can do contact:

Online: www.criticalresistance.org; www.prisonactivist.org

Local: Thurston Jail Alternatives at (360) 491-9093 or (360) 705-3528 www.jailalternatives.org; Prison Action Committee at (360) 867-6724

The New Face of American Democracy under the Bush Administration (& like minded Democrats)

IRAQ:

Over 8000 innocent Children, Women & men killed since March 20, 2003 by Operation Iraqi Freedom: an operation to remove a US supported totalitarian and rob the country's OIL RESERVES.

HAITI:

Kidnap the elected President and allow the execution of his suppor-ters by convicted killers and right-wing revolutionary thugs in order to reestablish rule by the wealthy business elites of the area.

VENEZUELA:

Covert activities to overthrow the democratically elected president (failed once) because he wants to nationalize Venezuela's oil & won't play ball with the BIG OIL interests of the Bush administration.

Proclamation Exposes Hidden Disabilities

By Carolyn Trefts

Chances are that in your daily life you interact, without knowing it, with people who have MCS. Although disabled, people who are afflicted with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities often do not seem to be different from us. If you pay attention to people you are talking with, you may notice some speech difficulty, or a vacant emptiness in their eyes. You may not detect one common symptom of MCS, which is short-term memory loss. The general population laughs it off as a condition of stress in our every day lives. However, people suffering from MCS-induced short-term memory loss may find it difficult to carry on a conversation. And if you are talking to me, I am trying to hide my disability. In the years soon after my injury in a chemical spill at work, I contrived to prevent you from seeing my MCS, my hidden disability.

Sometimes I pretend to have a secret. In a small way, I have the same shame as the pale skinned person of color, trying to pass as white. I am trying to pass as "normal." The longing is always there: I want to live an ordinary life. Instead I am a victim of the industrial age dream to make the world a better place. "Better living through chemistry" will make everything stronger, cleaner, safer, and more beautiful. As a victim of that dream I can share with you my point of view.

People suffering from Multiple Chemical Sensitivities are indicators of the degradation of the chemical industries' dream. Like the canaries taken into the mines to measure air quality, we can alert you to specific toxins and dangers to your health. And like the orders to bring the miners up and out of the tunnels when the canaries fell dead in the bottom of their cages, we have knowledge to prevent the consequences of ignoring or being trapped in a toxic environment.

At the turn of the century (twentieth into twenty-first), a rapidly spreading "condition" has been given recognition. It has changed from a ghost into a credibly and reliably researched physiological illness named Multiple Chemical Sensitivity. This change has been brought about, in part, by the thorough and determined work of well known and credible reporters such as Bill Moyer. Talking about his PBS documentary, Trade Secrets, Moyer revealed that the "industry had tried to cripple" his research and media efforts. In spite of a wide reaching disinformation campaign of the American Cancer Society, the Washington (D.C.) Post, right wing polemicist Reed Irvine, and others, Moyer's' film was aired on PBS.

In his speech given at the National Press Club Luncheon, 3/22/01, Moyer reminds us of another crusader's work. Thirty years ago, Rachael Carson's The Silent Spring, was targeted by the chemical industry, which "mounted a blitzkrieg designed to destroy her credibility. As soon as the first installment appeared in New Yorker Magazine, . . . Carson was accused of a communist plot to cripple American industry." Her widely read book, still important today, influenced the thinking of legislators. In forty of the United States. "Within a year, each one had passed regulations concerning pesticides."

Lesser known people also inform us of the scientific and cultural changes in attitude toward MCS. A mother struggling with her MCS symptoms, Alison Johnson of Brunswick, Maine, whose three daughters have the same disability, provides accurate and current information about the causes and treatment of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity. Her book, Casualties of Progress, Personal Histories from the Chemically Sensitive, provides shocking and heartwarming information about people of all ages and all walks of life including Gulf War vets, and professional athletes. Recently Johnson released four videos designed to educate four different groups of people:

People suffering from Multiple Chemical Sensitivities are indicators of the degradation of the chemical industries' dream. Like the canaries taken into the mines to measure air quality, we can alert you to specific toxins and dangers to your health.

The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, people of all ages in Washington have developed a condition known as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) as a result of a single massive exposure or repeated low level exposures to toxic chemicals and other irritants in the environment; and

WHEREAS, MCS is recognized by the World Health Organization, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Social Security Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agency, as well as other state and federal government agencies and commissions which have supported the health and welfare of the chemically injured; and

WHEREAS, MCS is a chronic condition for which there is no known cure, and which symptoms include chronic fatigue, muscle and joint pains, rashes, asthma, headaches, and other respiratory and neurological problems; and

WHEREAS, MCS can cause major financial, employment, housing, health, and social consequences for people who have this disability; and

WHEREAS, reasonable accommodations and information about recognition of MCS can provide opportunities for people with this disability to enjoy access to work, schooling, public facilities, and other settings where they can continue to contribute their professional skills, ideas, creativity, abilities, and knowledge; and

WHEREAS, people with MCS need the support and cooperation of family, friends, co-workers and society as they manage their condition and adapt to new life styles;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Locke, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2004 as

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to support understanding, education, and research of MCS.

Signed this 5th day of February, 2004

Governor Gary Locke

MCS sufferers and their families, administrators of Government regulations, church buildings, schools, and workplace facilities. Her superb, indispensable, annotated survey, MCS Information Exchange, shares information about effective, as well as potentially dangerous, treatments. Available at Alison Johnson (207-725-8570).

In Seattle, the Washington Toxics Coalition publishes information and takes the lead in organizing grass roots activism. This non-profit organization has a proven track record of creating positive change and protecting our environment and our health. For more that 22 years, the Coalition has worked with individuals, community groups, and businesses to achieve policy victories and positive changes in our world, locally and nationally. Priority campaigns include:

* The Toxic-Free Legacy Campaign: addressing the issue of deadly chemicals now (dioxin, flame retardants, mercury, pentachlorophenol, PCB's) and ending their toxic legacy.

* The Healthy Schools Campaign: working with community members all over the state to end the use of toxic pesticides in our children's schools.

* The Clean Water for Salmon Campaign: Evidence links pesticides to serious impacts on salmon.

* The Home Safe Home Campaign: naming alternatives to toxic home-pest-control chemicals, cleaning products, building materials, and other chemical hazards in the home.

*Washington Toxics Coalition: www.watoxics.org .

As I read Governor Locke's "Proclamation," I know that it has several points of value, in spite of its shortfalls. The first is that he is gathering public focus and attention on a little known physiological disease, which is widespread in our society, with myriad symptoms that affect individuals in a variety of ways. The second value of the proclamation is that the Governor acknowledges the suffering incurred by the victims of the disease, and their need for support at home and at work. And third, this "Proclamation" could be a springboard to launch an active campaign to support research, education, understanding and, most important, new Washington State laws to implement positive changes in the conditions, which cause Multiple Chemical Sensitivity.

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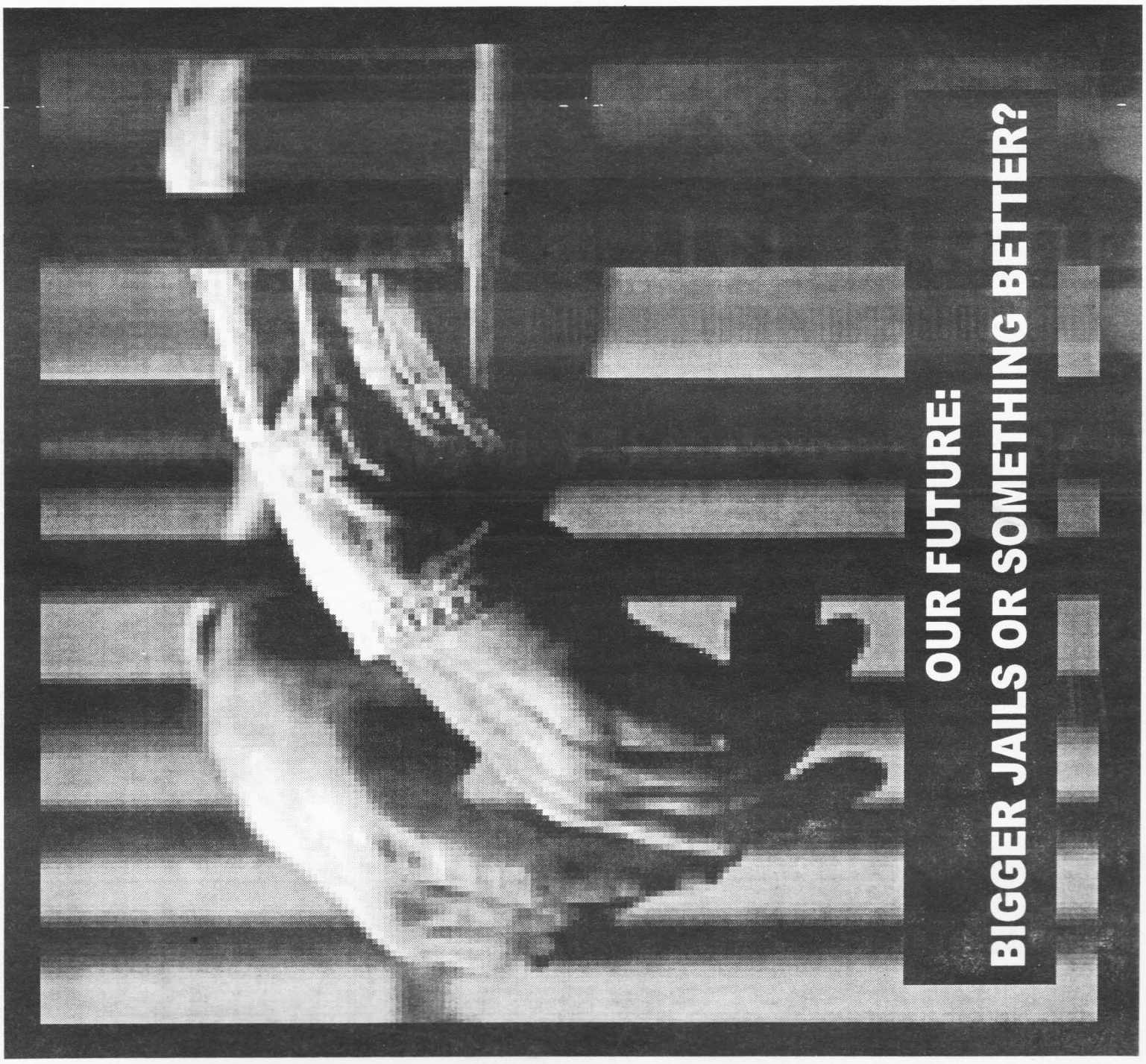

CONTENT

- 1 -
Vote NO by May 18 in the county-wide mail-only election - *By Glen Anderson*

Poisoning Capitol Lake: a malicious attempt to deceive the public - *By David Lavender*

- 4 -
Breaking the "Bigger is Better" Dogma in Thurston County - *By Marco R. Rossi*

- 5 -
Billboards for the People! Local nonprofit gets the word out - *By Alicia Elliott*

- 6 -
Instant Runoff Voting - *By Drew Hendricks*

Protesting the Wall - *By Neal Ahearn*

- 7 -
The Struggle for Justice is a Strugge for Life: El Salvador's quest for peace - *By Genevieve Long*

- 8 -
The Iranian Revolution, Continued: A Review of Enemies of the Ayatollahs - *By Ron Jacobs*

- 10 -
Just a Few Faces of Racism - *By Krystal Kyer*

The New Face of Democracy

- 11 -
Proclamation Exposes Hidden Disabilities - *By Carolyn Trefts*

REMEMBER 9/11

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VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1A — THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION — MAY 2004 SUPPLEMENT

Vote "NO"on the Thurston Justice Center

Bigger Jails or Something Better?

Glen Anderson

Should Thurston County taxpayers spend $100 million to build Phase I (the first 640 beds) of a proposed 1,200-bed jail? Or are there better ways to address crowding, and related health and safety issues at the current jail?

A special county-wide election is being conducted now. Ballots must be postmarked by May 18.

Everyone wants to reduce crowding at the jail. The question is how to do it. Should we keep building bigger and bigger jails, or should we pursue more cost-effective and humane solutions — alternatives that would really solve the problems?

The county's criminal justice system already consumes 76% of the county's general funds budget. Where will the extra funds come from?

The county wants to go $88 million into debt and raise property taxes for 20 years to pay off the debt. For a typical $170,000 house in Thurston County, the increase will be $87 per year for 20 years.

This affects renters too, because landlords pass higher costs on to the tenants.

Projected costs unsustainable

In a recent ten-year period Thurston County's population increased 28% while our jail population increased 109% - almost four times as fast. This is not sustainable! We can't build our way of this problem. We need better solutions.

The $88 million bond issue would pay for construction only. Operating a much bigger jail will also cost more every year. The county's criminal justice system already consumes 76% of the county's general funds budget. Where will the extra funds come from? Raising taxes even further? Cutting county services?

An expensive jail would consume the money we need for real solutions. New and expanded programs could reduce jail population and save taxpayers money – but only if we fund them as our first priority instead of squandering the money on a gigantic new jail.

This would be the biggest bond issue in Thurston County history. It would burden taxpayers for the next 20 years. Would taxpayers feel overloaded and start voting against schools, parks, buses, libraries and other needs?

Overcrowding? Let's think, not just react.

Nobody wants overcrowding at the jail. The real question is how best to avoid it. Continually building bigger and bigger jails is "tunnel vision."

Jails are like closets: the more space you have, the more you'll keep filling it up.

The county admits that the new jail will be 93-100% full on the day it opens. Phase II will have to start almost immediately with additional costs, and then Phase III.

Actually, the jail is not really as overcrowded as the county says it is. Their "average daily population" (ADP) statistic includes everyone under this jail's jurisdiction, whether or not they occupy beds in our jail. ADP includes people on work release and electronic home monitoring, and those who are housed at Western State Hospital and in cells we rent in Yakima.

Choose humane, cost-effective alternatives.

Years of "tough on crime" politics have wasted huge amounts of tax dollars on jails and prisons. Now we need to get "smart on crime."

Tax dollars are tight. We need to spend them wisely. We can get "more bang for the buck" by investing in alternatives and solving the underlying problems. Many alternatives have been proven effective in reducing crime and saving money. They protect the public better than jails do.

Jail is simply the wrong approach for some situations. For those people whose real, underlying problems are homelessness, addiction or mental illness, jail is an expensive but ineffective revolving door. Treatment could help solve their problems so they don't keep returning to jail. This would be better for society too.

We can protect public safety and hold people accountable for their behavior without this gigantic jail. Alternatives such as Drug Court, Mental Health Court, intensively supervised probation, and Restorative Justice can

(Continued page 2)

Patriot Act Watch

President Bush, Like John Ashcroft, Travels US to Boost Patriot Act

Howard Rosenfeld

In a widely reported and promoted story, President Bush is on a closed-door tour before law enforcement and first responders promoting the extension of the Patriot Act. Many of its provisions expire in 2005. However, House Republicans said they don't plan to make an issue of the act until 2005, after the presidential elections. Bush also wants the act made more comprehensive:

"Bush said the legislation should be expanded to allow subpoenas in terrorism cases to be issued without approval of a judge or grand jury, to allow terror suspects to be held without bail and to make sabotage of defense or nuclear facilities that results in loss of life punishable by death . . . A USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll taken in February found that 71 percent of Americans disapprove of a section that allows agents to delay telling people that their homes have been searched secretly. About half said they were uneasy about a provision that allows the FBI to obtain records from hospitals, bookstores and libraries and another that allows agents to ask banks whether terrorism suspects have accounts with them." (The Olympian, 4/20/2004)

An appearance by President Bush in Buffalo, NY on April 20th met with noisy protests from hundreds of residents who oppose the renewal of the Patriot Act, especially in light of the detention of six Yemeni-American men from Lackawanna (a suburb south of Buffalo) who are imprisoned for traveling to an al-Qaeda training camp. The group was profiled in an episode of PBSs Frontline in 2003 and an update from January 2004 on the PBS website states:

"In December 2003, the Lackawanna Six were sentenced to prison terms between seven and ten years long. Sahim Alwan received nine and a half years for obstructing justice and providing material support to Al Qaeda. It was a stiffer penalty than expected. The one remaining fugitive in the case, Jaber Elbaneh, is now in custody in Yemen. U.S. officials are negotiating for his extradition." (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/sleeper/)

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The number of resolutions passed in the US condemning or warning of the dangers of the Patriot Act has grown to 291 communities or states. The latest state to pass one is Maine which approved a weakly-worded joint resolution, similar to the one passed here by the City of Olympia. Other communities of note to pass resolutions include Tampa (FL), Washington, DC, Dallas (TX), Milwaukee (WI), Richmond (VA), St. Louis (MO), and Ames (IA). See the complete list at the ACLU website (www.aclu.org).

The work of civil liberties activists around the country ". . . has helped shift public opinion about the Patriot Act and other antiterrorism measures and policies in communities nationwide and in Washington, DC. Comparisons between USA Today/CNN/Gallup polls taken in August 2003 and February 2004 show a steady decrease in public approval of the Patriot Act. A study published in March by the Council for Excellence in Government called America Speaks Out About Homeland Security shows that the American people have reservations about the government using their personal information.

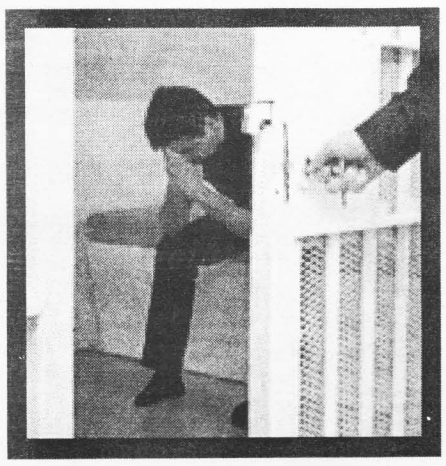
(Continued page 3)

(Jail continued from front page)

provide accountability.

Restorative Justice offers realistic and compassionate alternatives to the typical criminal justice system. Depending on circumstances, these could include victim-offender mediation, restitution, counseling and other services for victims and offenders.

Building a bigger jail will consume the money we need for funding the



alternatives. The county is not budgeting enough for these alternatives. Don't accept vague promises that they'll fund them later. We need to fund alternatives now as our first priority.

A nuclear power analogy pertains here. In the 1970s electricity usage was increasing rapidly, so the "tunnel vision" approach was to build nuclear power plants. The government was recommending 1,000 of them. However, they were terribly expensive. The biggest public bond default in U.S. history occurred here in Washington, where WPPSS, a consortium of public utilities, tried to build five nuclear power plants. WPPSS went bankrupt and defaulted on billions of dollars' worth of bonds. Energy conservation was cost-effective. Instead of building nuclear power plants, governments and utilities found it cheaper to promote conservation – even buying insulation and giving it away free.

Likewise, instead of building and operating jails and prisons, a wide range of social service and crime prevention programs will be more cost-effective.

Improve efficiency in current jail and court systems

The county is still looking at the wrong problem. Instead of "overcrowding," the real problem is that people wait too long in Thurston County's jail before trial. In fact, 56% of the people in Thurston County's jail are awaiting trial.

We should implement consultants' recommendations before building a bigger jail.

Better pretrial services could reduce jail population by releasing more low-risk people from jail while awaiting trial.

A Public Defender system would provide better legal representation, speedier trials, and less time waiting in jail.

Judges should be more flexible in sentencing alternatives to jail.

Combining some pre-trial and probation services would improve efficiency.

More probation officers could supervise more people in the community instead of making them occupy jail space.

Expand our Drug Court and provide better treatment

The county estimates that 75-85% of inmates abuse drugs and/or alcohol. Jail is woefully inadequate to deal with the underlying problems.

Thurston County's new Drug Court is a tremendous success! It brings professionals together to provide justice for the community and accountability and treatment for drug-dependent persons. Persons who complete the program are less likely to commit new crimes. Expanding the Drug Court – and providing readily available treatment for people who abuse drugs but have not yet run afoul of the law – would reduce future crimes and jail populations.

Start a Mental Health Court and provide treatment

Nationwide, our society underfunds mental health services, causing a great many people to needlessly end up in jail. Politicians and taxpayers may think they save a little money by not funding mental health services, but they end up paying much more for police, courts, jails, and the social and economic disruption of families and communities.

Approximately 15-20% of jail inmates suffer from major mental illnesses. Mentally ill offenders spend longer in jail – an average of 64 days, compared with 27 days for other inmates. We need special facilities for evaluating and treating these people more quickly, rather than throwing them in jail.

Let's start a Mental Health Court, similar to Thurston County's highly successful Drug Court. It would bring judicial and correctional professionals together with mental health professionals to provide better informed justice, wiser decisions, and better coordination. It would divert the appropriate mentally ill offenders to treatment programs and address the underlying problems.

Help homeless persons get transitional housing and jobs

Many homeless people go to jail for offenses related to being homeless. Transitional housing, education, job training and adequate health care would reduce homelessness, stabilize individuals in the community, reduce crime and recidivism, and reduce overcrowding at the county jail.

Reduce crime

Prevention is very important. In addition to typical crime-prevention activities, let's also work actively to reduce alienation, anti-social feelings, and the undercurrent of violence throughout our culture. Let's teach how to manage anger and solve problems without violence. Let's provide early intervention for individuals and families who are experiencing the kinds of problems that can develop or escalate into behaviors that land people in jail.

A tremendous number of successful crime reduction programs have been scientifically studied throughout the US and Canada over the years. These include literacy programs, drug courts, individual counseling, vocational education, therapy for families in which the children have gotten into trouble, and many other kinds of programs. Many of those show tremendous success in reducing crime and avoiding costs for future prosecution and incarceration.

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Because they reduce crime, they also save costs that otherwise would have been borne by potential crime victims. When these two kinds of savings are added, many of these programs return several dollars of savings for every dollar invested. Many kinds of programs save $2 or $3 for every dollar invested, and some save $5 or $10 or more. The scientific research is compiled in a very thorough report titled *"The Comparative Costs and Benefits of Programs to Reduce Crime."* It was published in May 2001 by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

Involve the whole community in problem-solving

The county government has mismanaged the jail issue for years. The county paid $3.8 million for the Tyson building in Tumwater. It was supposed to be remodeled to reduce crowding at the main jail, but this plan failed because of poor planning, and the Tyson building remains vacant.

Next the county developed the current plan and bought 27 acres on Mottman Road in Tumwater so it could co-locate the jail and courts for efficiency. However, the State Supreme Court ruled that the county's superior court must be in the county seat, Olympia. Now the county is pushing ahead with the jail in Tumwater separated from the court in Olympia, even though this will waste a lot of money and staff time transporting inmates back and forth between the court and the jail. This violates the original vision of co-locating the courts and jail, so they're building operational inefficiency into this new jail.

The county used a narrow, top-down approach in developing these proposals. County and city governments did not consult enough with professionals in fields of mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, etc., let alone the broad spectrum of the general public.

Many of the problems are interrelated. We need to address them in a "whole systems" way and consider public safety, public health, economic justice, low-income transitional housing, "quality of life" issues, and community values such as democracy and sustainability.

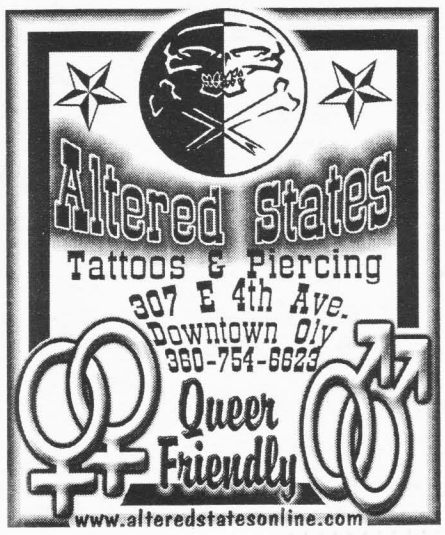
Start now, don't wait 'til 2008

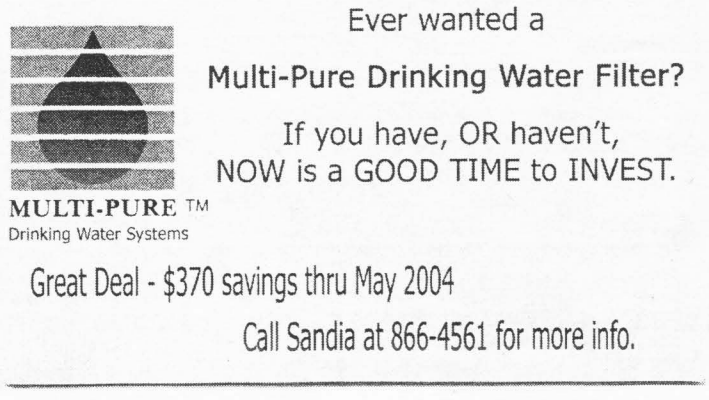
If voters pass the $88 million bond issue, the new jail won't be ready until 2008. Instead of tolerating four more years of overcrowding and failure, let's start now to develop and fund better alternatives. Some of these could start yielding results fairly quickly, while some might require a longer time to implement or produce results. Let's expand the solutions that already work locally and implement the solutions that have worked in other communities.

A diverse group of community volunteers formed a grassroots organization to oppose this expensive boondoggle and support humane, cost-effective alternative solutions. The organization — **"Thurston Jail Alternatives: Together, We Can Do Better!"** (TJA) – encourages broad community participation. A thoughtful combination of systemic efficiencies, alternatives, treatment, and remodeling can solve the problems better and at a reasonable cost.

TJA relies on small financial contributions. We invite donations to **Thurston Jail Alternatives, 7223 20th Avenue SE, Olympia WA 98503.** For more information see www.jailalternatives.org or phone Chris Stegman at (360) 705-3528.

Please vote "NO" on the jail bond issue and mail your ballot before May 18. A massive "NO" vote will get the county's attention and motivate them to collaborate with the whole community to create workable solutions.

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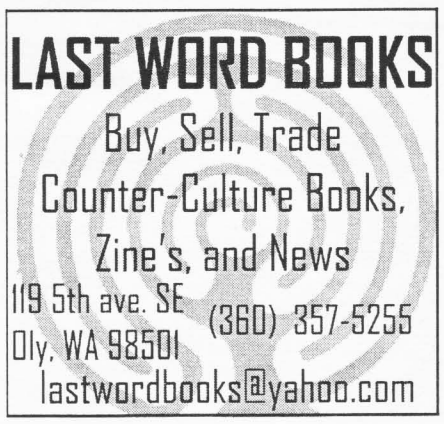
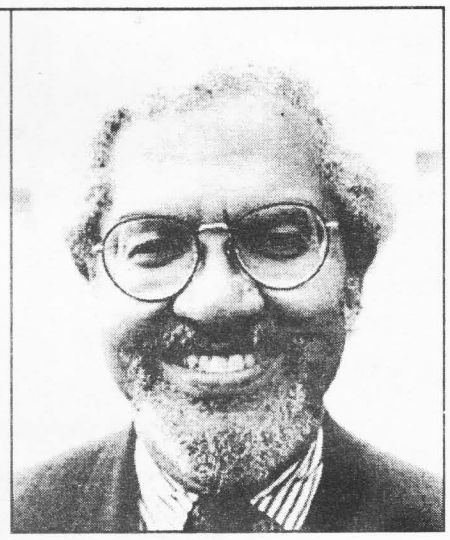


ALONG THE COLORLINE

THE NEW RACIAL DOMAIN



Manning Marable

The nearly forty million Americans of African descent find ourselves in an unprecedented situation, with the slow demise of affirmative action. The enemies of racial justice have not (yet) reinstalled "colored" and "white" signs at restrooms and restaurants. Jim Crow segregation isn't just around the corner. Yet something more powerful and deadly seems to be on the agenda.

Several years ago in my book, The Great Wells of Democracy: The Meaning of Race in American Life, I advanced the thesis that the prison-industrial complex was the central, driving factor behind this social transformation. I now think that formulation was too angular and ahistorical. A more dialectical approach would stress the intersectionalities between social variables and institutions that are currently devastating the lives of millions of black people. Simply put, the matrix of what can be called the New Racial Domain is a deadly triangle, or unholy trinity of structural racism: mass unemployment, mass incarceration, mass disfranchisement. This triangle of "color-blind racism" creates an endless cycle of economic marginalization, and social exclusion, culminating in civil and social death.

The cycle of destruction starts with chronic, mass unemployment and poverty. Real incomes for the working poor actually fell significantly during Clinton's second term in office. After the 1996 welfare act, the social safety net was largely pulled apart. As the Bush administration took power, chronic joblessness spread to black workers in the manufacturing sector. By early 2004, in cities such as New York, fully one-half of all black male adults are now outside of the paid labor force. By January 2004, the number of families on public assistance had declined to two million, down from five million families on welfare in 1995. New regulations and restrictions intimidate thousands of poor people from requesting public assistance.

The New Racial Domain is an unholy trinity of structural racism: mass unemployment, mass incarceration, mass disfranchisement.

Mass unemployment inevitably feeds mass incarceration. About one-third of all prisoners were unemployed at the time of their arrests, and others averaged less than $20,000 annual incomes in the year prior to their incarceration. When the Attica prison insurrection occurred in upstate New York in 1971, there were only 12,500 prisoners in New York State's correctional facilities, and about 300,000 prisoners nationwide. By 2001, New York State held over 71,000 women and men in its prisons; nationally, 2.1 million were imprisoned.

Today about five million Americans are arrested annually, and roughly one in five Americans possess a criminal record. Mandatory-minimum sentencing laws adopted in the 1980s and 1990s in many states stripped judges of their discretionary powers in sentencing, imposing draconian terms on first-time and non-violent offenders. Parole has been made more restrictive as well, and in 1995 Pell grant subsidies supporting educational programs for prisoners were ended. For those fortunate enough to successfully navigate the criminal justice bureaucracy and emerge from incarceration, they discover that both the federal and state governments explicitly prohibit the employment of convicted ex-felons in hundreds of vocations. The cycle of unemployment starts again.

In seven states, former prisoners convicted of a felony lose their voting rights for life. In the majority of states, individuals on parole and probation cannot vote. About 15 percent of all African-American males nationally are either permanently or currently disfranchised. In Mississippi, one-third of all black men are unable to vote for the remainder of their lives. In Florida, 818,000 residents cannot vote for life.

Even temporary disfranchisement fosters a disruption of civic engagement and involvement in public affairs. This can lead to "civil death," the destruction of the capacity for collective agency and resistance. This process of depolitization undermines even grassroots, non-electoral-oriented organizing. The deadly triangle of the New Racial Domain constantly and continuously grows unchecked.

Not too far in the distance lies the social consequence of these policies: an unequal, two-tiered, uncivil society, characterized by a governing hierarchy of middle- to upper-class "citizens" who own nearly all property and financial assets, and a vast subaltern of quasi- or subcitizens encumbered beneath the cruel weight of permanent unemployment, discriminatory courts and sentencing procedures, dehumanized prisons, voting disfranchisement, residential segregation, and the elimination of most public services for the poor.

The later group is virtually excluded from any influence in a national public policy. Institutions that once provided space for upward mobility and resistance for working people such as unions have been largely dismantled. Integral to all of this is racism, sometimes openly vicious and unambiguous, but much more frequently presented in race neutral, color-blind language.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of Public Affairs, Political Science and History, and the Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University in New York. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge to over 350 publications throughout the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Marable's column is also available on the Internet at www.manningmarable.net.

(Bush continued from front page)

Even the Department of Justice (DOJ) is starting to listen to the public: On March 21, 2004, Chuck Rosenberg, the chief of staff chief of staff to the DOJ's Deputy Attorney General, admitted that the public's support of the Patriot Act is waning. At a panel in St. Louis following the passage of that city's resolution, Rosenberg acknowledged that his department is "losing this fight" to justify controversial parts of the Patriot Act." (April 2004 BORDC Newsletter)

In a brilliant combination of protest and creativity, an attorney and artist in Pennsylvania collaborated to create a Patriot Act Board Game. Lisa Freeland, a public defender, and Steffi Domike, an artist, created the game, intending to make learning about the complicated series of laws and their widespread implications fun. In an effort to persuade the Pittsburgh City Council to pass a resolution condemning the Patriot Act, activists held a "play-in" at which dozens of people tried their hand at the game. To buy the game for yourself, visit http://home.earthlink.net/~thepatriotactgame/.

The recent hearings held by the 9/11 Commission gave the Patriot Act a boost, in the eyes of some.

"Pressed by commissioners as to why their agencies failed to "connect the dots" before the 9/11 attacks, law enforcement and intelligence officials in both the Clinton and Bush administrations cited powers now included in the Patriot Act. The act, for example, makes it easier for agencies to monitor the activities of suspected terrorists, and lets agents conducting criminal probes share information with intelligence officers, and vice versa." (Christian Science Monitor, 4/19/2004)

Aiming to create mechanisms to review Patriot Act requests by federal officials, the City of San Francisco has introduced Proposition E:

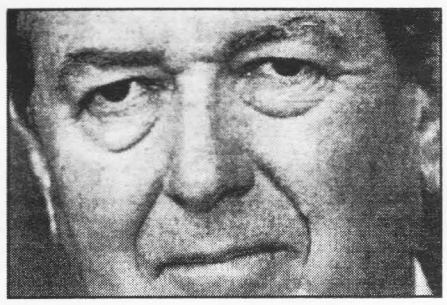
"Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, who sponsored Prop. E, said he wants to protect citizens' privacy and take the burden of such requests off the shoulders of city workers. In particular, he doesn't want any employee to face criminal prosecution for deciding not to comply with the Patriot Act . . . Under Prop. E, the supervisors would decide whether to respond to federal requests under the Patriot Act or similar laws to city departments. The mayor would then approve or veto the board's decision . . ." (San Francisco Chronicle, 2/27/2004).

Attorney General John Ashcroft has threatened to recommend the President veto the SAFE Act if it comes to his desk (big surprise). He sent a letter to Senator Orrin Hatch, Chair of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, warning that if Congress passed the Security and Freedom Ensured Act (SAFE Act), which has bipartisan support, the President's senior advisors would recommend a presidential veto. You can read the ACLUs detailed response to Ashcroft's letter here - http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=14884&c=262.

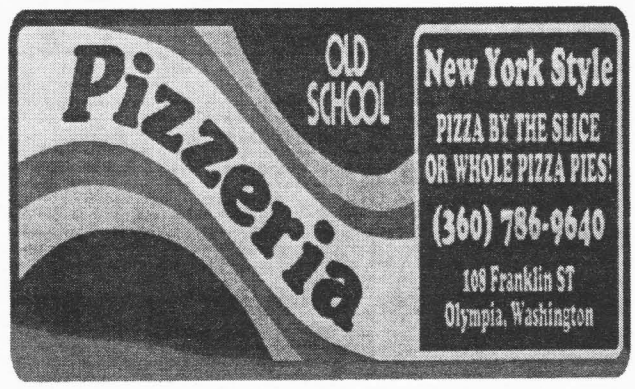
Finally, campuses around the country are considering laws that would require foreign students to pay for their own surveillance . . .

Several college campuses and universities are imposing fees on international students to cover the students' own surveillance costs...

"Several college campuses and universities are imposing fees on international students to cover the students' own surveillance costs, as mandated by the Department of Homeland Security



Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). Last year students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison organized and successfully defeated a university policy which would have charged each international student $125 for his or her own surveillance. UW students won the support of the student government, the Madison City Council, and the community. University of Massachusetts-Amherst students are similarly campaigning to end the policy of charging $65 to international students. The UMass students are waging a public campaign, with rallies and protests, and many international students are refusing to pay the fee. These students risk being withdrawn from the University, reported to the Department of Homeland Security, and deported." (April 2004 BORDC Newsletter)



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Special Supplement to the May 2004 Issue

Due to technical difficulties in the May 2004 issue, some articles were omitted and contents in others were lost. In order to correct these errors, this special supplement contains reprints of the affected articles. We apologize to our readers, our authors, and advertisers, and wish to assure all that we are taking measures to improve Works In Progress's method of production.